



## Iran denies Tehran role in bombing

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran on Saturday again denied involvement in the bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, after the U.S. State Department said Tehran may have had a role. In a statement carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency, the Foreign Ministry rejected the American statement as "an unfounded claim and a pure lie." The ministry said through a spokesman: "This new U.S. accusation is an attempt by the American policymakers to overshadow their internal crisis, which stems from injustice, racial discrimination and human rights violations in that country." He was referring to last week's riots in Los Angeles, in which at least 58 people were killed. The uprising was triggered by an all-white jury's acquittal of four policemen accused in the videotaped beating of a black motorist. It was not Iran's first denial of involvement in the March 17 Argentine bombing, which killed 28 people, and was clearly reiterated as a response to the latest American statement. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Thursday in a statement that "information has been gathered that indicates Iranian involvement in the attack, but there is not conclusive evidence at this time." The pro-Iranian Lebanese underground group Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for the bombing.

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## King, Arafat exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday made a telephone call with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and exchanged with him views on the current Arab situation and Palestinian-Jordanian coordination at the current stage of the Middle East peace process. Mr. Arafat expressed his appreciation of King Hussein's stand on the issue of renovating the Dome of the Rock Mosque and the King's directives to speed up work in the renovation project. Upon directives by King Hussein, the council of ministers last week allocated JD 10 million for the project. Mr. Arafat affirmed that the King's gesture is a continuation of Jordan's principled stands which have always supported the Palestinian people.

## Royal decrees approve laws

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday approving the housing and urban development corporation law. Another Royal Decree was issued approving an amendment to the Public Security Department (PSD) Martyrs Fund law. Another decree issued Saturday approved an amendment to the Royal Jordanian Airlines and an amendment to a system on the civil service of high ranking officials at the Royal Court. Other Royal Decrees were issued approving an amendment to the Social Security Corporation (SSC) employees allowance system, and an amendment to the government departments manning table system.

## Iraq: Sanctions killed 120,000

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iraqi newspaper said Saturday that U.N.-imposed sanctions led to the death of nearly 120,000 people in the six-month period ending in February. The newspaper Al Iraq, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency, said those figures included 39,114 children under five years old who "died as a result of the massacre of genocide being committed by the gangs of international terrorism, led by the criminal of the age, (U.S. President) Bush."

## Muslim theologians begin debate

JEDDAH (AP) — Muslim theologians began a six-day conference Saturday to debate issues such as the ethics of stock market dealings, but King Fahd advised them to strive to keep a sense of perspective. "It is imperative that Muslims pool their energies to face their real enemies instead of wasting these powers on petty differences," King Fahd said in the address delivered on his behalf by his brother Prince Majed, the governor of the Holy City of Mecca. "We fear that Muslims may be extremely hostile to each other whenever they differ on any secondary issues concerning the Islamic faith," he said.

## 2 killed in Sidon blast

SIDON (AP) — An unidentified assailant hurled a hand grenade in the downtown area of this southern port Saturday, killing two people, including a policeman, police said. They said the victims were police Corporal Shamas Shamas, 34, and Hussein Sayyed, 32, a Palestinian. The police report said a man suspected of being a friend of the assailant's was arrested for investigation. The suspect was not identified further.

## Egyptian militants demand release

CAIRO (R) — Muslim militants on trial on charges of stealing gold told an Egyptian court on Saturday they deserved the same treatment as four Israelis set free earlier this week. "Justice requires equality between us and Jews," Mohammad Saad Osman, one of the 16 bearded defendants, told a state security court. On Wednesday, Egypt released and deported three Israeli Arabs and an Israeli Jew detained since February on suspicion of spying. The four had not been charged.

## Palestinian delegates reportedly address PCC talks in Tunis

TUNIS (Agencies) — Four members of the Palestinian delegation to bilateral peace talks with Israel have addressed a Palestine Central Council (PCC) meeting in Tunis, defying an ineffective Israeli ban on contacts with the organization, delegates said Saturday.

Faisal Al Hussein, Hanan Ashrawi, Ghassan Al Khatib and Zahira Kamal travelled to Tunis secretly and reported on Thursday night to the council, they told Reuters.

Mr. Hussein is the overall leader of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and Dr. Ashrawi is their official spokeswoman.

Israeli laws ban contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but the Israeli authorities have not enforced the law against the Palestinian negotiators. Mr. Hussein and Dr. Ashrawi were said to have addressed a closed session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers last October. Israeli officials said later they could be prosecuted if there was enough evidence against them.

The negotiators told the PCC meeting there could be no progress in the bilateral talks until

Israel stopped moving Jewish settlers to the occupied territories. They said the economic and social situation in the occupied territories was deteriorating and complained about internal disputes between the PLO factions there, the delegates said.

The PCC has been meeting behind closed doors since Thursday and was expected to end on Saturday night.

Delegates said the debate was heated between a majority led by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and hardliners opposed to talks with Israel within the framework proposed by the United States.

Hardliners, mainly the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Nayef Hawatmeh wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) urged the council to reject any further participation in both bilateral and multilateral talks as long as the Palestinian delegation does not include Palestinian exiles.

The U.S. and Russian sponsors of the talks have invited exiles only to two out of five sets of multilateral talks, those on refugees and on economic development.

The negotiators told the PCC meeting there could be no progress in the bilateral talks until

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## U.N. official is due in Libya with Ghali letter

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali is sending a senior official to Tripoli with a letter asking Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to comply with U.N. demands for the handover of agents accused of bombing a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, diplomats said.

The official, Undersecretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, plans to reach Tripoli over the weekend. Mr. Petrovsky said during a stop in Rome that he was going to see if there were any new developments. "The Italian news agency ANSA reported," Mr. Petrovsky was to fly from Rome to Tunis Saturday, proceeding to Tripoli by ground transportation Sunday to meet with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

"We of the United Nations always have to be optimistic," he said, after meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis to discuss the Libyan crisis, ANSA said. "It's not too late" for Libya to honour the U.N. resolution, Mr. Petrovsky said.

Libya has been under U.N. sanctions since April 15 for its refusal to surrender the two men indicted by the United States and Britain for the December 1988 bombing that took 270 lives.

The sanctions include a ban on all civilian air traffic to and from Libya, an embargo on all military supplies and aid and a reduction of Libyan diplomatic missions abroad.

Asked about the trip, U.S.

Ambassador Thomas Pickering told reporters, "The message is the same one that has always been out there that it is long past time that Libya complied with (U.N.) resolutions."

U.N. sources also said the letter suggests U.N. observers attend any trial of the accused. Mr. Pickering said he was not aware of the proposal but normally trials in the United States were open to anyone. But he would have to "take another look" and ask the Department of Justice if such a request was made.

Diplomats said Dr. Ghali was exercising his right under resolutions to "seek the cooperation" of Libya to "provide a full and effective response" to Security Council requests.

Some envoys also said the trip was being undertaken at the urging of Egypt and followed an Arab League meeting in Cairo last week that expressed "deep concern" at the sanctions and sought to head off any escalation in the crisis between Libya and the West.

A League statement said that a seven-nation Arab committee would continue its efforts as soon as possible "to find a suitable solution according to the principles of international law."

Libya was to begin a complicated parliamentary process Saturday that could give it a face-saving way to end its standoff with the West.

Nationwide neighbourhood congresses, caucuses of Libyans

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KING MEETS POLICE CHIEF: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday paid a visit to the Headquarters of the Public Security Directorate (PSD) and held talks with PSD Director-General Fadel Al Field, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The talks covered the security situation in the Kingdom and the King issued related instructions, it added.

## U.S. reports increasing settlements

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel's settlements in the occupied territories have increased by 25 per cent over the past year and housing construction has outpaced the government's ability to entice new residents, according to a new State Department report.

The report reflected Israel's apparent determination to strengthen its grip on the occupied Palestinian lands at a time when it has entered into U.S.-sponsored peace talks with the Arabs.

The State Department report to Congress said some 245,000 Israeli settlers now live in about 250 settlements in the occupied territories which the U.S. government defines as the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and East Jerusalem.

The report was an update of a study done a year ago which put the number of settlements at roughly 200, and the number of settlers at more than 200,000. Jews now make up about 13

per cent of the occupied territories' population, the State Department concluded.

The largest increase came on the West Bank, where the number of settlers grew by between 7,000 and 10,000 in 1991, and East Jerusalem, where 9,000 new settlers were added, the department said. The number of West Bank settlements grew from about 150 to 180.

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## Kabul truce extended

KABUL (Agencies) — Rival rebel factions on Saturday agreed to extend their tenuous ceasefire for three more days to try to bring peace to the war-weary capital.

The truce between the fighters of Hezb-e-Islami, led by renegade chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and those backing the new Islamic interim government was due to expire Saturday morning.

But the two sides decided to extend the agreement until Monday evening, rebel sources said.

The interim government of former rebels remain divided by the personal rivalries and ambitions that kept them from forming a united front throughout the 14-year war against the Soviet-installed government.

Kabul's schools reopened Saturday for the first time since March but few pupils attended for fear that the ceasefire in the capital could break down.

An official of the new government said some teachers also stayed away.

Asked if Mr. Hekmatyar would carry out his threat to attack the city if militia forces were not expelled, his spokesman said: "Of course he has the forces. If he is attacked he will use them."

"But we hope that will never happen. We are looking for a peaceful settlement through negotiation."

The former government's militia, mostly recruited from Afghanistan's ethnic minorities, switched sides last month to help

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## Hardliners trounced in Iranian run-off elections

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranians elected a flood of newcomers to parliament in runoff ballot results Saturday, confirming a landslide for backers of President Hashemi Rafsanjani that buried his anti-Western rivals.

In results announced for 87 seats, carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), only nine incumbents from the hardline lame-duck parliament won reelection.

The rest went to new faces who are overwhelmingly pro-Rafsanjani. That trend was expected to prevail as more results were divulged.

The result appeared to cut the radicals, who call themselves the true followers of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, down to a small rump in the parliament they had dominated for years.

That would eliminate a major roadblock that slowed the pace of Mr. Rafsanjani's reforms, which include seeking financial aid from the West and tolerating a mild social liberalisation.

With more than a third of ballot boxes in Tehran counted, pro-Rafsanjani candidates were set to win all the capital's 28 seats contested in Friday's run-off, an official at Resalat newspaper said.

"More than 50 per cent of the candidates elected in provinces also were supporters of the Combatant Clergy Association's campaign slogans," he said, referring to the main pro-Rafsanjani group.

"This is a decisive victory," he added.

Nearly half the 270 seats of the Majlis (parliament) were to be decided in the run-off after a

right-centre alliance defeated radicals in the first round vote in April.

Mr. Rafsanjani cited the first-round results as proof of popular support for his economic liberalisation policies, which radicals often attack as hurting the poor.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had urged the electorate to vote out "trouble-makers" who had used the parliament to weaken Mr. Rafsanjani's government.

Tehran Radio and IRNA published returns from more than 62 constituencies, but not from Tehran.

The Resalat official said with 268,000 votes counted in Tehran pro-Rafsanjani candidates were in the top 28 places in a re-run of the first round.

Among prominent radicals, Majlis Speaker Mehdi Karrubi was 35th, former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi was 43rd and Mohammad Mousavi Khoeiniha, a leader of students who seized the U.S. embassy in 1979, stood in the 36th place.

None would be elected if the pattern is maintained through the final count, which can take another four days.

Top vote in Tehran went to Abbas Sheibani, a former Tehran University president, followed by Mohammad Javad Larjani, a former deputy foreign minister attacked by radicals as an architect of Tehran's policy of opening up to the West.

Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, a cleric and former interior minister tipped to become the new Majlis speaker, was fifth.

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## Hrawi, Assad discuss Beirut crisis

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi opened talks with Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad on the formation of a new cabinet in Lebanon following the resignation of Prime Minister Omar Karami. Officials and diplomats said Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Assad had a closed-door meeting before being joined by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, a specialist in Lebanese affairs. Mr. Assad, whose country maintains some 40,000 troops deployed over two-thirds of Lebanon, has a major say in the country's politics. Mr. Karami, faced with the worst civil unrest in years, resigned on Wednesday and has ruled out heading a new cabinet. Diplomats and officials say there are several candidates to head a new government. They include Sami Al Khatib, interior minister in Mr. Karami's cabinet, and Salim Al Hoss, a U.S.-educated economist and prime minister during the civil war. Under Lebanon's complex political system the premiership goes to a Sunni Muslim.

## Delegation heads for Brussels multilaterals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the working group on economic development in the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations left for Brussels Saturday saying that the Kingdom will submit a working paper tackling the economic imbalances in the Middle East region.

Fayez Tarawneh, who is leading the Jordanian team to the meetings due to open May 11, said in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Jordanian paper "underlines the importance of linking the bilateral with the multilateral talks in the sense that the former deals with political and legal rights as well as the root cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict while the other deals with the humanitarian issues and matters of cooperation after peace is established."

The Brussels meeting, Dr. Tarawneh said, is the first practical round of multilateral talks since the Moscow meeting held in January was a mere procedural parley resulting in the formation of five working groups, including the economic development working group.

He said that the Brussels meeting will assume the form of a seminar in which a large number of countries and institutions with vast experiences as well as states directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict are participating. Referring to Israel's stand, Dr. Tarawneh said that the Israelis, until this moment, are opposing the participation in the multilateral talks by the Palestinians from the diaspora.

Dr. Tarawneh's team includes Dr. Mohammad Saleh Al Horani, deputy governor of the Central Bank, Dr. Safwan Tougan, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning, Mr. Talsi Al Hassan, Jordan's ambassador to Belgium, Dr. Ahmad Mustafa from the Central Bank and Mr. Iyad Al Qudus from the Ministry of Planning.

## Sharif pays tribute to U.S. role in peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan appreciates the stand of U.S. President George Bush in initiating the Middle East peace process and the president's deep concern for achieving peace in the region and determination to pursue all efforts to achieve that goal, Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif said Saturday.

Jordan is also appreciative of the U.S. administration's decision to refrain from granting Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees until the Jewish state halts its settlement programmes in the occupied Arab lands, the minister said at a meeting with a visiting team representing the U.S. National War College.

The minister reviewed with the visitors the main issues in the region and Jordan's stand regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict. "The Arabs feel puzzled and confused when they hear about

the new world order which is supposed to be based on justice for all since they see Israel confronting and defying this world order and continuing to swallow up more Arab lands everyday, without meeting any deterrent except words of condemnation," he said.

Israeli officials' reiteration that "Jordan is Palestine," the minister said, is a slogan of Israeli extremists.

"Jordan can never be a Palestinian state simply because the Palestinians do not accept this solution and because they know that their homeland lies across the river to the west and can accept no substitute homeland and will naturally pursue the struggle to regain their rights," the minister said.

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## Bombs hit Algerian media; 8 killed in Friday violence

ALGIERS (AP) — A bomb destroyed the office of an independent Algerian news agency Saturday, the second attack against a news organisation in 24 hours.

The explosion at the office of Media-Fax caused no injuries, a spokesman for the independent agency said. Media-Fax is in the Maison de Presse, headquarters of the majority of Algeria's news organisations.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for either attack. Newspapers have been attacked in the past by Muslim fundamentalists who believe the Algerian media are too close to the government.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the main fundamentalist party banned by the government, has its own clandestine newspaper.

Late Friday, a bomb exploded outside an apartment building adjacent to the daily Le Soir d'Algerie. No one was injured in the blast or resulting fire, authorities said.

A newspaper spokesman said Le Soir d'Algerie was among a number of newspapers recently receiving mailed and phoned threats of "reprisals."

Eight people were injured and one was killed Friday, the first mass prayer since 16 Muslim fundamentalists were condemned to death this week, according to police and Algerian radio.

More than 200 were arrested outside of mosques before and after weekly prayers, the state-run radio said.

Police reported one death and 299 arrests in the Western city of Tlemcen, but gave no details.

## 'Panic' at Amman share market — much ado about nothing

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The panic that gripped the Amman stock market compounded by dramatic media descriptions of the sharp drop in the share price index and business is unfounded since the developments in the market are only a natural course of events with no significant impact on the national economy, officials and economic analysts said Saturday.

The share price index slipped another 2.6 points Saturday continuing its downward trend, but the prime indicator of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) situation is expected to stabilise in two or three days, according to the officials and analysts.

"It is a time for profit-taking by investors," said Dr. Omayya Tougan, general manager of the AFM. "Everyone is engaged in reaping the benefits accrued from holding on to shares, and it is only a natural course of events."

Furthermore, he noted, "the month of April is over and most companies have already distributed their dividends for the year 1991 and now share prices are going down since earlier offers included the expected dividends."

Analysts and economists also suggested that the strong tendency of speculators to dispose of shares at the AFM was the result of misinterpreting government moves to streamline commercial credit as aimed at squeezing the liquid

ity available for share market dealings.

The share price index closed at 158.2 on Saturday, down from Wednesday's 160.8 and 165.8 of the week before. Total volume of trading for the day was JD 1.73 million, down from a daily average of JD 5.49 million in the first week of May and JD 7.12 million in the second week of April.

Dr. Tougan said share prices had risen to "a very high level" as a result of speculation and now they were "coming down to an acceptable and realistic level."

"I think the downward trend would continue for another two or three days before we reach that acceptable level, where prices would be stabilised," he told the Jordan

Times. "We feel quite comfortable with the situation and there is no need at all for any panic since what is happening now is only a natural corrective measure," he added.

Economists noted that the share price index closed at 118.4 at the end of 1990, while the closing figure for 1991 was 147.2 and therefore the decline to 158.2 this week can, by no measure, be seen as signifying any dramatic decline to the late 1980s when the AFM suffered a marked drop in business.

The latest drop in the index and business were headlined as a "crash" of the AFM with conflicting views over its impact on the national economy. However, economists, bankers and analysts were unanimous

Saturday in rejecting such a contention.

"It is a matter of speculators making money off each other," said economist Faded Fanek, a Jordan Times and Al Ra'i columnist. "Over the past months they were playing against each other and now it is time for some of them to reap benefits of the game," he told the Jordan Times.

"The contribution to the national economy by the concerned companies is not measured by the value of their shares in the market, but by their respective productivity, which is not affected by any fluctuations of share prices," Dr. Fanek pointed out.

Dr. Fanek also noted that the fluctuations in the Jordanian market cannot be com-

pared with similar events in the U.S. or Europe, "where the indices indicate recession and recovery as a cycle."

"Recession and recovery are not cyclical in Jordan, and as such any comparison between share market ups and downs here cannot be seen in the same scale as elsewhere."

Dr. Fanek agreed that the decline at the AFM would stabilise in a "matter of days" and that "now buyers are waiting for prices to go down further."

According to Maher Al Waked, a banking executive and analyst, there was a "misinterpretation of recent moves by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) leading to the sudden trend in the market to shed

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## 20 countries to attend Mideast regional security conference

By Russell Dybvik  
USIA

WASHINGTON — More than 20 countries plan to participate in a multilateral working group meeting on arms control and regional security in the Middle East scheduled to open May 11 at the State Department, according to spokesman Margaret Tutwiler.

"The multilateral negotiations are an important part of the Arab-Israeli peace process started in Madrid last October," she reminded Friday news briefers. "They are designed to complement and act as a catalyst to progress in the bilateral negotiations."

The May 11-14 session is one of five such multilateral gatherings scheduled to deal with specific issues of regional interest. Other working groups will discuss regional economic development in Brussels May 11-12; refugee matters in Ottawa May 13-14; water resources in Vienna May 13-14; and environmental issues in Tokyo May 18-19.

Ms. Tutwiler provided additional details on the arms control session which has been convened under the co-sponsorship of the United States and Russia, as has been the entire Middle East peace process.

Delegations will attend from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Yemen. Additionally, European Community will have representatives, along with Canada, China, India, Japan, Turkey and Ukraine.

"The working group meeting will be conducted in seminar format," Ms. Tutwiler said, "and will include presentations and discussions on the methods and concepts of arms control, the evolution of the confidence and security building process, and the history of the U.S.-Soviet hotline agreement, the incidents at sea and dangerous military activities agreements."

Regarding the agendas of the other meetings, Ms. Tutwiler said the refugee working group was designed "to examine the scope of the problem of refugee and displaced persons and discuss data needs and practical ideas. The economic development working group will discuss possibilities for regional economic cooperation in a manner that complements the bilateral talks, for example, in the area of trade, investment and infrastructure," she said. The working group on water will discuss problems associated with water in the Middle East and the environment working group will discuss follow-up to recent Japanese missions that examined acute environmental problems in the Middle East, the spokesman explained.

Ambassador Dennis Ross, director of the State Department's office of policy planning, and Richard Clarke, the assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs, will head the U.S. delegation and co-chair the arms control working group, she said.

She said Mr. Ross would make an opening statement for the United States, but said "the various presentations" would probably not be made public.

Ms. Tutwiler also announced the heads of the U.S. delegations to the other working groups. William Burns, deputy director of the policy planning staff, will head the delegation to the environmental working group in Tokyo. Daniel Kurtzer, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, will head the delegation to the refugee working group in Ottawa. Allen Keiswetter, director of the office of regional affairs in NEA will lead the delegation to the water resources working group in Austria. Sandra O'Leary, deputy assistant secretary of the department's economics and business bureau, will lead the delegation to the working group

on economic development in Brussels.

The spokesman said the proliferation of arms in the Middle East is "an issue of great concern" to the United States, as both President Bush and Secretary of State Baker repeatedly have made clear.

"But we also recognize... that we are one of the largest suppliers of arms to the region," she said. Ms. Tutwiler recalled that the president's initiative to bring about a reduction in arms sales to the region has been a topic of ongoing discussion among the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

### Agencies add:

Israel is boycotting the refugees and economic sessions because Palestinian exiles are being permitted to attend. But it will send a delegation to the arms control sessions.

Syria and Lebanon will stay away, as they did from a planning session in Moscow in January. Syria's position is that in the absence of peace with Israel it is inappropriate to take up other issues. Lebanon generally follows Syria's lead in such matters.

The presence of China and Saudi Arabia is notable. China has sold missiles to Saudi Arabia and Iran and is suspected of selling missiles to Syria, while the Saudis, who are not participating in peace talks with Israel, have been willing to take part in the regional discussions. That is considered a conciliatory gesture by the Bush administration.

A year ago President Bush proposed a Middle East arms control initiative. Since then, the United States has transferred roughly \$8.5 billion worth of arms to the region, according to the private Arms Control Association.

## Mossad link cited in Patras blast

ATHENS (AP) — A Palestinian student told a court Friday he had placed a remote-controlled detonator in a bag with explosives shortly before it blew up, killing its Palestinian handler and six Greeks in the port of Patras last year.

Al Bakair Ibrahim, 28, said he had been forced to do this by a member of Israel's Mossad intelligence service, in a document read to a five-judge court on the first day of testimony.

He and seven other Palestinians are accused of involvement in an attempt to blow up the British consulate in Patras on April 19, 1991. But the bomb exploded while it was being carried by an alleged member of the gang, killing him and six people in a nearby courier service office.

A Greek woman, Katerina Loutaidou, 28, who is reported to have been the dead bomber's friend, is accused of a misdemeanor in not tipping off police about the gang's plans.

Ibrahim's fellow Palestinian defendants say they are innocent. They face up to life imprisonment if convicted.

The Palestinians have previously blamed Mossad for the explosion in Patras, a city 200 kilometres west of Athens.

The weekly Takhydromos magazine, quoting court papers, reported on Wednesday that Ibrahim had provided police with details of the gang's operations and had told them that their target was the British consulate.

Reversing himself, Ibrahim claimed in his document that what he had told police was untrue and the result of coaching by Mossad.

Ibrahim alleged that a member of Mossad, known to him as Mohamed Yonis, had initially tricked him into giving him information after telling him that he was an official of Fateh.

Ibrahim said that Yonis then threatened to betray him to the Palestinians unless he continued working for him.



A kitchenware salesman piles his trade during the fragile ceasefire in Kabul

## Daily life in Kabul—emerging Islam and a fight for flour

By John PoMfret  
The Associated Press

KABUL — Laila Khan is not fond of wearing scarves. She likes the feel of the wind through her hair. So when she came to work Friday morning bundled in baggy clothes, her head shrouded in red cloth, colleagues giggled.

Ms. Khan laughed back. There across from her in the international news division of the Bakhtar news agency was M. Katavazi, her boss. Just two weeks ago, he sported a suit. Now he wore a cream-colored shawlwar kameez, a pajama-like outfit favoured in Islamic countries.

"Look at this," said Mr. Katavazi. "Are we really becoming a Muslim nation?"

Ten days into the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, daily life has become confusing. Everyone is guessing what is right and what is wrong.

The government has issued a few orders to guide its people. Effective Friday, it banned the consumption and sale of alcohol and ordered women to wear Islamic dress. Failure to obey is punishable by flogging.

Still, in this society not prone to fundamentalism, anomalies remain.

At the Kaybar Playhouse, the city's biggest movie theatre, "Rambo III" is the current blockbuster. Every show is sold out, says Basmullah Khan, the 47-year-old director of the theatre. "It's an Islamic movie," Mr. Khan says with a straight face. "Rambo kills Russians. And he

fighters with the Mujahedeen."

The cold war-era film shows Rambo with the "freedom fighters" who now dominate Kabul. Next in line, however, is "Robocop II."

"Oh, that one's OK," Mr. Khan said, fingering large stacks of local currency after an early-morning show. "It's a technical movie. It has lots of science."

The only thing the Ministry of Culture has banned, he said, is sex. That means no more Indian movies, which — with their inevitable scenes of smooching under waterfalls — have been a favourite among Afghans.

Interpretation of the new rules is made slightly hair-raising by the fact that many of Afghanistan's self-appointed rules-makers, the Mujahedeen, have guns.

Every group has a pet peeve. Every man has his own law. At Babur's Garden, cock fighting was in full swing Friday. Mohammad Amir's chicken had just poked the eye out of a competing bird, winning the farmer 150,000 Afghanis (\$500) — more than three times an average yearly salary.

"Soon we will end all this," said Mohammad Agar, a 28-year-old Mujahedeen who looked out on the crowd of spectators, an AK-47 automatic rifle between his legs. "Gambling is un-Islamic. We will make Afghanistan like Iran."

But daily life in today's Kabul is more than a struggle with the vagaries of Islamic law. Food is another problem. And then there's the prospect of continued fighting between rival guerrilla

groups.

Also Saturday, schools, which have been closed since March 20 when winter vacation ended, are scheduled to reopen.

"Only God knows what will happen to Afghanistan," said Mohammad Arif, whose family has run a prayer beads dealership near Kabul's blue mosque for three generations. At the Mandawee Kabul flour market Friday, merchants were refusing to sell to several hundred angry customers because they said government-controlled prices would hit them with heavy losses.

Grain merchant Abdul Rhami said he was facing a \$30 loss on every 98-kilogramme bag of flour if he sold at the government price of about \$2 for every seven kilogrammes of flour.

"I have hundreds of bags back there," he said, pointing to a makeshift warehouse. "That could put me out of business."

But electrical engineer Jaber Ali demanded Mr. Rhami make a sale. "My house is empty of wheat," he said. "We have five people to feed. We have no bread."

Amid the struggle between the spirit and the stomach, Kabul residents have somehow found time to feed the senses. Near the centre of town, a florist selling potted roses was "doing" a fast business. "They are sweet to the nose and good for the heart," said a bearded man who was loading one onto the back of his bicycle.

"Roses are especially important during these difficult days."

## Kurd rivals vow to abide by election results

SHAOLAWA, Iraq (R) — Rival Kurdish rebel leaders Massoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani have met in the resort town of Shaqlawa and vowed to abide by the results of leadership and parliamentary elections scheduled for May 17 in northern Iraq.

Hundreds of heavily armed Peshmerga guerrillas who had gathered to see their leaders broke into applause as the two men shook hands on the steps of the Shaqlawa hotel on Friday night.

"We reached complete agreement to abide by the results of the elections," the men said in a joint statement after the meeting. "We are both democrats... we will respect the will and desire of the Kurdish people."

Mr. Barzani, who heads the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), is running against Mr. Talabani, chief of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), for the position of overall leader of the Iraqi Kurdish community in the May 17 voting.

Their respective parties are battling for dominance in the Kurdish parliament which will be elected on the same day.

Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani, also used the three-hour meeting to discuss recent incidents of violence in which party members were involved.

Fifteen Kurds were killed in the city of Cham Chamal on Tuesday night after a tribal land dispute spilled over into party politics and rival PUK and KDP members started shooting.

"Those who committed the

crime have been arrested... Cham Chamal is quiet and everything is well there," Mr. Talabani said.

The Cham Chamal incident was the latest in a series of violent confrontations between KDP and PUK followers which threatened to disrupt Kurdistan's first free elections.

Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani have spent most of their careers fighting against Baghdad, but their intense personal rivalry erupted into Kurdish civil war in 1966 and 1987.

Friday night's meeting was a deliberate attempt to ensure Kurdish unity before and after next week's historic voting.

Iraq crushed a post-Gulf war Kurdish rebellion last spring, but rebel leaders have regained control over most of northern Iraq.

The Kurdish leaders say next week's elections are intended to fill the vacuum created by Baghdad's six-month economic and administrative blockade of rebel-held territory.

The central issue in the campaign is Kurdistan's future relationship with the central government in Baghdad.

Mr. Barzani supports Kurdish autonomy within a sovereign, democratic Iraq.

Mr. Talabani opposes autonomy so long as Saddam Hussein and the Baath Party are in power. Instead, the PUK chieftain currently favours "self-determination within a democratic Iraq," an ill-defined concept which seems to promise Kurds more than autonomy without saying what that might be.

## Late Shah's brother held on drug charges

BEVERLY HILLS (Agencies) — The brother of the late Shah of Iran was arrested at his swank residence by Santa Monica police and booked for investigation of possessing opium.

Mansour Reza Pahlavi, 62, identified as the brother of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was arrested Friday following a six-month investigation, said Santa Monica police Detective Maury Sumlin.

Investigators from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Santa Monica and Culver City police departments found about 1,000 grams — more than two pounds — of opium in Mr. Pahlavi's \$2 million home, Det. Sumlin said.

They also found drug paraphernalia including smoking pipes and scales, he said. The investigation began when postal inspectors intercepted about 500 grammes of opium in the U.S. mail addressed to Mr. Pahlavi, said Ralph Lockridge, a DEA spokesman in Los Angeles.

Mr. Pahlavi faces state drug charges for possession of opium for the purpose of sales, Det. Sumlin said. Mr. Pahlavi was jailed in Santa Monica on \$100,000 bail.

He was to be transferred Saturday to the Los Angeles county jail, where he would be housed with thousands of suspected looters and arsonists arrested in riots that swept the city last week, DEA spokesman Ralph Lockridge said.

Mr. Pahlavi was arrested on charges of possessing opium with intent to distribute the drug, a serious crime.

Mr. Pahlavi's brother ruled Iran with an iron hand until he was deposed by Islamic revolutionaries in 1979 while under medical treatment in the United States. He died in Egypt on June 27, 1980.

In the raid of Mr. Pahlavi's mansion on Friday, authorities seized smoking pipes and scales used to weigh the opium. "The narcotics paraphernalia indicated to agents that he was not only using the opium but was distributing it," Mr. Lockridge said.

It was one of the largest opium seizures in recent years in Los Angeles, which is more commonly used as a trans-shipment point for South American cocaine and for Marijuana.

"We usually don't grab anything more than a few grammes of opium," said Mr. Lockridge, who was unable to estimate the drug's value. "The drugs were smuggled in the U.S. mail and were intercepted at the Beverly Hills post office from Europe."

He declined to specify where the shipment originated.

A .357-calibre Magnum handgun and a semi-automatic pistol were also seized at Mr. Pahlavi's home, Mr. Lockridge said.

He said Mr. Pahlavi surrendered peacefully and was the only suspect arrested so far in the case. But he said more arrests were expected in the United States and Europe.

Mr. Lockridge said Mr. Pahlavi's arraignment would be delayed until next week because the city's justice system had been swamped by the arrest of more than 9,000 people in last week's race riots.

## 'Friendly fire' soldier died reading love letter

OXFORD, England (Agencies) — An inquest into the deaths of nine British soldiers killed by a "friendly fire" during the Gulf war heard on Friday how one of them was reading a letter from his girlfriend when he died.

The account was contained in written testimony by Lance Corporal Peter Fyfe, who was from one of two Warrior armoured fighting vehicles fired on by a U.S. A-10 tank-busting plane in the Iraqi desert.

Victims' parents listened in silence as the statement, read by coroner Nicholas Gardiner, recounted the moments before his warrior was hit on February 26, 1991.

Cap. Fyfe said some men had left the vehicle to stretch their legs while awaiting further orders but Private Martin Ferguson, 21, returned to sit inside with the door open.

"At that point Ferguson pulled a letter from his pocket, which I knew he had received from his girlfriend, Rachel."

"Suddenly, there was a loud explosion. I, among others, were screaming. My hair and combats were on fire and I had a large piece of shrapnel in my left thigh which I removed... my ears were ringing and bleeding and I felt that I had heat damage to my face," Cap. Fyfe's account read.

The inquest, which opened on Thursday, is the third attempt to establish the truth of the incident after British and American inquiries yielded different accounts of what happened.

Relatives of the victims accuse both government of a cover-up and are furious that the United States will not send the two A-10 pilots to testify.

On Friday, they confronted an official U.S. observer, U.S. Air Force lawyer Colonel Robert Bridge, for a second time over the absence of the witnesses, hanging him outside the court.

He told them the pilots chose not to give evidence in person. "But we have cooperated with the inquiry and we have provided the statements from the pilots," he said.

The inquest cannot apportion blame for the deaths.

## Turkey, Argentina sign accords, vow to boost ties

ANKARA (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem signed agreements with Turkey on Friday to forge closer economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

Mr. Menem, who arrived earlier for a four-day visit aimed at strengthening economic relations between two emerging regional powers, stressed their similarities.

"I trust my visit will acknowledge our mutual similarities and also deepen the friendship between Turkey and Argentina," he said at a dinner given by Turkey's acting president, Parliamentary Speaker Husamettin Cindoruk.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said after talks with Mr. Menem: "Turkey and Argentina have grasped the call of the era. This call is to rally around democracy, human rights, market economy, peace and protection of justice."

The two leaders also signed framework agreements covering the mutual protection and en-

couragement of investments, a joint trade commission, visa exemption, tourism and culture.

Argentine Ambassador Adolfo Saracho has said his country is keen to explore possible joint ventures for small-scale nuclear power reactors, hydroelectric turbines, cranes for ports, railway materials and cement.

"We see Turkey as a dependable partner with similar attitudes... we are determined to create favourable conditions for investments, encourage private enterprise and deepen the relations among our peoples," Mr. Menem said in his dinner speech.

Mr. Menem, a descendant of former Ottoman citizens of Syrian origin, told reporters: "This is the country that my family left on a Turkish passport. For Argentines and Turks, I am 'El Turco' (the Turk)."

Argentine and Turkish businessmen held separate talks on increasing trade, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO  
17:30 Michael Vaillant  
17:45 Des Chiffres et Des Lettres  
18:15 L'Ecole des Fans  
19:00 News French  
19:15 Carrot de Notes  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Wings  
21:10 Doc: "Action Odyssey"  
22:00 News in English  
22:20 Law and Order

### PRAYER TIMES

04:24 Fajr  
05:40 (Sunrise) Dhuha  
12:32 Dhuhr  
16:12 'Asr  
19:24 Maghrib  
20:51 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De in Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 62543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775201  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751  
Assiuta International Church Tel. 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623534, 649352  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy with there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, with a slight rise in temperatures expected. Winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 8/20  
Aqaba 18/31

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deaths 7/24  
Jordan Valley 16/27

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 54 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Abdul Hach Tayyefi 620115  
Dr. Mohammad Al-Nabawi 695925  
Dr. Mohammad Manna 741444  
Dr. Basim Al-Qaddumi 646024  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Fordons pharmacy 778336  
Al Asama pharmacy 637055  
Narouth pharmacy 623672  
Al Salan pharmacy 636750  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Stomach pharmacy 637660

IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir (—)

Al Sharaa pharmacy 275825

ZARQA:  
Dr. Fadi Mubashir (—)  
Khalil pharmacy 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate 630341  
Rescue 199  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 845402  
Traffic Police 892090  
Public Security Department 63023  
Hotel Complaints 605800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 681000  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hassan Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Ama 642816  
Khalid Maternity, J. Ama 642414  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malalas, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Musaid Hospital 687227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 661275/1  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Mutajir 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 775112/6  
Army, Marata 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987322  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775  
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:30 Jeddah (RJ)  
18:30 Agaba (RJ)  
18:35 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
17:45 Cairo (RJ)  
18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:30 Paris, Geneva (RJ)  
19:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)  
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
20:20 London, Brussels (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:35 Cairo (MS)  
14:00 Moscow (SU)  
16:55 Larnaca (CY)  
20:35 Beirut (ME)

### DEPARTURES

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:00 Agaba (RJ)  
11:50 Tunis, Comblance (RJ)  
13:45 Cairo (RJ)  
20:40 Larnaca (RJ)  
21:00 Jeddah (RJ)  
21:00 Damascus (RJ)  
21:00 Riyadh (RJ)  
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
23:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)  
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)  
23:45 Samsa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)  
18:00 Rome (AZ)  
11:25 Milan (MS)  
16:00 Moscow (SU)  
17:45 Larnaca (CY)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg:  
Apple (red) 100/60  
Banana 300/450  
Banana (Mukammal) 250/500  
Beans 150/100  
Cabbage 100/100  
Carrot 100/120  
Cauliflower 300/300  
Cucumbers (large) 150/100  
Cucumbers (small) 300/250  
Eggplant 250/450  
Garlic



## Crown Prince points to gap in convention on status of refugees

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 1951 United Nations convention on the status of refugees would not be complete if it did not include other groups such as expatriates and displaced people, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Saturday.

Addressing the opening session of a seminar on international humanitarian law organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Prince Hassan said the old convention needs modification since most Western states granted refugee status only to people who met the requirements of this convention, created then to care for World War II refugees.

Prince Hassan stressed that over one million Asian and Arab people forced out of Kuwait and Iraq during the Gulf crisis, were regarded as expatriates and internally displaced people, but were not protected by international humanitarian law because they fell outside the 1951 rules.

During a press conference held after the opening session, Mr. Marco Sassoli, legal advisor for the Middle East International Committee of the Red Cross, explained that the ICRC's foremost mission is to protect and assist civilian and military victims during armed conflicts and internal disturbances, as well as promote international humanitarian law and its dissemination, but he

did not fall short of agreeing that "there is room for the improvement of international humanitarian law on refugees."

"This should be the responsibility of the Higher Commissioner for Refugees," Mr. Sassoli said. "The ICRC can only operate and assist in times of conflict and war."

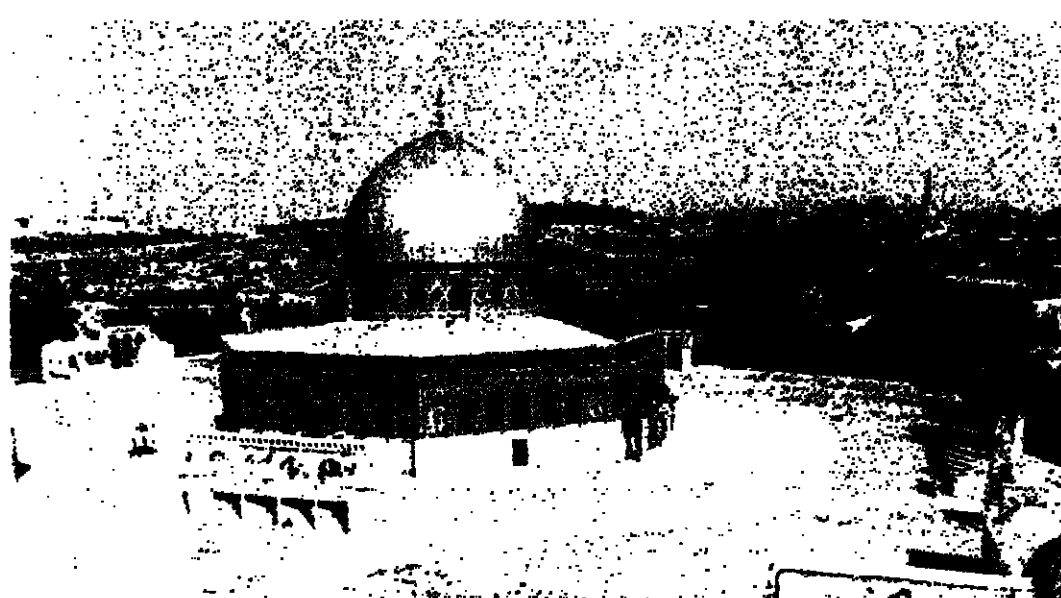
According to Michel Ducraux, head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the seminar aims at looking into human rights, and ways to implement them and to protect the rights of people especially during armed conflicts.

Mr. Ducraux explained that the seminar has three tracks. One attended by the Jordan Red Crescent Society members, as well as Red Cross personnel will discuss ways to disseminate principles of the Fourth Geneva Convention and international humanitarian law.

The second group would include academics, professors, students, representatives of the foreign ministry, and junior diplomats will discuss specialised and legal aspects of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The third track will be attended by members of the armed forces.

Along side the seminar, a photo exhibition of ICRC activities around the world was held for the first time in the Middle East. The exhibition will open again in Cairo in September under the auspices of the Arab League.



The Dome of the Rock Mosque in occupied Jerusalem (File photo)

## Committee invites 5 firms to work on restoration of the Dome of the Rock

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government-appointed committee charged with carrying out restoration work on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem opened meetings here Saturday to discuss practical steps related to the project.

According to Jordan Television, the committee members endorsed a recommendation by its technical team on the qualification of five out of 15 international firms to carry out the project.

The committee also decided to send messages to the qualified firms to come and receive tender documents related to the plan.

Following the meeting, the committee chairman, Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib, said that the committee was implementing the directives of His Majesty King Hussein noting that the Jordanian government was shouldering the task of financing the project.

Sheikh Khatib, who is also minister of Awqaf and Islamic

Affairs, said that all the plans and blue prints for the project were ready but the project will be divided into two parts: The restoration of the top dome and the early alarm system against fires and the second phase involves the use of marble stone on the external parts of the dome.

The government announced that it was allocating JD 10 million for the project noting that the restoration work was a national and religious responsibility.

He also said that the municipality under his bloc would cooperate with local residents to carry out investment projects and find proper solutions to the city's main problems like dealing with pests and insects and rodents and sanitary services.

Dr. Sweileh noted that the municipal council under his bloc would give due attention to expand cultural activities and enhance the role of public libraries as well as the youth and sports clubs and children's activities.

In contrast, engineer Sami Irsheidat said that the Reformists Bloc would give due attention to collective work to make the city of Irbid more clean and more beautiful.

He pointed out that the municipal council under the Reformists Bloc would give attention to the municipality's financial, technical and administrative branches and would give priority in employment to local citizens over non-Jordanians.

Mr. Irsheidat said that the municipality would seek close cooperation with Yarmouk University and the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST) in matters related to combating pollution to the environment and in organising public cleanliness campaigns.

He also noted that streets, street lighting, garbage collecting and disposal of insects and rodents will be given due attention.

Furthermore, Mr. Irsheidat stressed the need for public gardens and public libraries, noting that regulations and rules would be enacted to control random building construction.

"Our call for inter-Arab reconciliation stems from our national standing and principles and it is a call aimed at serving the Arab Nation as a whole so that the Arabs can deal with other nations in the spirit of the modern age to win the respect of the world community," said Mr. Sharif.

In reply to a question about the creation of a Higher Council for the Press in Jordan, the minister said that it was a mere idea which was still under consideration.

"Of course there is a big difference between the Jordan Press Association and the projected Higher Council for the Press because the association is an institution aiming to defend the basic rights of journalists and protect their professional duties while the higher council would serve as an arbitration authority ensuring that the association remain committed to its professional ethics and to provide protection from irresponsible writings," the minister said.

He added that the council would direct the journalists' attention to issues of concern to the public and not to echo support for governments, and would urge journalists to seek the truth in all matters and raise their professional level to the aspired standards.

Mr. Sharif noted that in working out a Higher Council for the Press in Jordan, the Ministry of Information was trying to seek experiments from other countries and it has already obtained the laws and regulations of similar councils in Sweden, Spain, Austria and India.

The minister said that the ministry was trying to come up with ideas emanating from laws to be submitted to the parliament for further study.

"I would like to see the national press adhering to the spirit of freedom but with self-imposed controls that by no means reduce freedom of the press," he noted. "At the same time this would help the public know the truth by serving as a responsible tool serving the higher national interests."

In reply to a question about the Jordanian press halting hostile campaigns against the regimes in the Gulf states and Egypt, the minister said that the government did not issue any order to the Jordanian newspapers to launch hostile attacks or refrain from doing so.

Jordan, he noted, is seeking an end to all hostile and propaganda campaign levelled against any Arab country and to transcend the tragedies of the Gulf crisis.

"It is time for Jordan to try to mend fences with all Arab countries to the level of responsibility once again," the minister stressed.

"I believe that this idea was implanted in the heads of the Jordanian journalists, hence they stopped their propaganda campaign which can serve no useful purpose, but rather poison relations among the Arabs under the present tragic situation," he pointed out.

The minister said what the press needed now was a different type of language, with the journalists directing their attention to matters leading away from the tragedy of the Gulf issue.

He expressed his view that Jordanian journalists have realised the need for a change in the attitude and took the initiative to change the tone of their writings that prevailed during the Gulf war.

## Islamists, Reformists battle to win elections in Irbid

IRBID — Irbid will witness Wednesday what observers believe will be the most heated municipal elections to date as 26 candidates compete for the nine-member municipal council.

The candidates are grouped into two blocs: The Islamic Cooperation Bloc, led by Dr. Fakhri Sweileh, and the Reformist Bloc, led by engineer Sami Irsheidat.

Dr. Sweileh said in a statement that his bloc would carry out services fairly and equitably in all regions, with special attention to the lower-class districts where cleanliness was the main complaint.

He said the bloc would give attention to public gardens, and cleanliness as well as maintenance of roads and streets.

Dr. Sweileh said street numbering and bus stops needed special attention.

"The nearby refugee camps are

considered part of the city and therefore they will be given the bloc's attention," said Dr. Sweileh.

He also said that the municipality under his bloc would cooperate with local residents to carry out investment projects and find proper solutions to the city's main problems like dealing with pests and insects and rodents and sanitary services.

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### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King condolences Emir of Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, to condole him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government over the death of Sheikh Rashed Ben Ali Ben Issa Al Khalifa.

#### Saudis issue guidelines to pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — The Saudi authorities have instructed this year's pilgrims to take care of their luggage, official papers and other belongings and not to leave them in yards surrounding Al Masjid Al Haram Mosque and Al Masjid Al Nabawi Mosque, an official source at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs said Saturday. The source said the instructions require every pilgrim to present a meningitis vaccination certificate to the concerned authorities ten days before reaching the holy lands. He said that the instructions also ban pilgrims to take foodstuff to Saudi Arabia, except for certain quantities which will be used for travellers by land.

#### Suheimat inspects eastern Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat Saturday toured areas in eastern Amman and met with citizens there. Citizens briefed Mr. Suheimat on their needs and demands for establishing new schools and health clinics, opening and asphalted roads and connecting water and electricity to their homes. Mr. Suheimat also inspected services offered by governmental departments and facilities in eastern Amman areas. The minister's tour included Al Mu'atrat, Salhiyat Al Abed, Wadi Al Qitar and Al Baida villages, as well as the ring road area. The minister also inspected the garbage dumping site area and was briefed by officials there on ways of dumping solid waste. The minister was accompanied on his tour by Amman Mayor Mohammad Basfir, Amman Governor Issa Al Omari and several officials.

#### Hindawi opens art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi opened Saturday at the sports complex hall of the Amman Municipality an art exhibition organised by the special education department at the municipality. The four-day exhibition includes paintings by students in various educational stages, handicrafts, mosaics, and embroidered dresses and clothes.

#### Education minister visits Salt

SALT (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi visited Saturday Al Salt Secondary School and met with members of its teaching staff. The minister was briefed on the school's need for maintenance work, a multi-purpose sports court and a soccer playground. The meeting was attended by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Balqa Governor Faleh Gharaibeh and several officials decided to set up a committee to follow up these needs with the concerned authorities. The committee will meet May 23 to discuss its work plans.

#### Ministers inspect southern Jordan today

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Al Suheimat, Public Works Minister Saad Hayel Surour and Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti will today make an inspection visit to the southern Jordan Valley region, Wadi Musa and Al Shobak. The ministers will also visit Al Zira-Ghor Al Safi road project to be familiarised with the development of the work process there and will inspect several other projects in areas in south Jordan.

#### Police investigates death of girls

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 20-year-old girl was found drowned in a water well in Sahab, a town 20 kilometres south of Amman, and the Civil Defence men were called out to pull the body. The police were investigating the case. A report in Al Ra'i daily said Saturday that a young girl was found killed with a bullet in the head in Jabal Al Nadluf. Initial investigations said that the girl, identified only with the letter (R) was shot by a stray bullet along with her sister. The police were investigating the incident.

#### Sqour stresses information sector role

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting for the directors of information and social education sections of the Ministry of Social Development department was held Saturday at the ministry. Secretary General of the ministry, Mohammad Sqour, who attended the meeting stressed the importance of activating the role of the information sector in serving the goals and aspirations of the ministry. He said the establishment of the social information and education department at the ministry was a result of the ministry's need to communicate its message, goals and aspirations to the public.

## European Investment Bank extends loan to finance Sahab industrial expansion

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Investment Bank (EIB) Saturday advanced a loan of three million ECU (approximately JD 2.58 million) towards financing expansion of Sahab Industrial Estate, about twenty kilometres south-east of Amman. Granted under the Third EC-Jordan Financial Protocol, the loan attracts a two per cent interest-rate subsidy funded from the Community budget. This operation follows on from two previous loans of eight and 6.5 million ECUs, made available by the EIB, the first in instalments over the period 1979-1981 and the second in 1986, to help in financing the first two phases of this estate.

The loan agreement was signed by Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz and EIB Vice President Allen Prate who Friday started a five-day official visit to Jordan.

The signing came after a meeting during which the two officials discussed Jordan's current efforts to socio-economic development and measures to absorb and offer employment to vast numbers of returning expatriates as well as to cope with the numerous economic and financial challenges facing the country, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Covering a total of 253 hectares, Sahab Industrial Estate is equipped with the infrastructure

needed by present and future businesses (water supplies, waste water collection, energy and telecommunications), as well as a waste water treatment plant, the water from which is used for irrigation purposes.

The industrial estate contains some 240 enterprises from all sectors of the economy, together employing around 6,300 people.

This third financing operation will allow for development of a further 68 hectares, construction of 22,000 m<sup>2</sup> of industrial buildings and associated infrastructure and extension of the waste water treatment plant.

About 125 enterprises are expected to occupy the new section of the estate, creating some 3,000 jobs. This investment is being carried out by the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC), an independent statutory corporation in which the government has a majority holding.

JIEC is the project promoter and also the beneficiary of the EIB's loan, through the intermediary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

This is the eighth EIB operation in Jordan as part of cooperation with the country under the Third Financial Protocol, bringing total funding by the bank under this protocol to 58 million ECU in loans from EIB resources and two million in the form of

risk capital drawn from the Community budget.

These funds have been used to support a broad spectrum of investment schemes underpinning local economic development, especially water resource management (urban waste water collection and treatment, notably in Zarqa), development of the productive sector and agricultural cooperation and electricity distribution.

A water management scheme, currently being appraised by the EIB, should absorb the five million ECU still available under the Third Financial Protocol.

The Fourth EC-Jordan Financial Protocol, covering the period 1992-1996, provides for funding worth 126 million ECU, including 80 million in loans from the EIB's own resources and two million in risk capital from budgetary funds.

Following the signing of the agreement Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour accompanied Mr. Prate on a visit to the Sahab Industrial Estate where they inspected a number of projects and toured factories.

Mr. Prate was briefed by Dr. Suheimat, JIEC director general, on the development of the industrial city and the services and infrastructure offered by the government to the investors in the Sahab Industrial Estate.

## Sharif extends bridge for Arab reconciliation

By Wafaa Matalqah

AMMAN — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif has called on the Arab World to unite and end side differences in the face of the common challenges, noting that Jordan has been exerting efforts to achieve a reconstruction of what he called "The Arab Home."

The Arab Nation is facing grave dangers and is called on to transcend differences resulting from the Gulf war and to look towards the future with a determination to reconstruct the Arab order, said the minister in a statement to the Iraqi magazine "Qimma."

"Our call for inter-Arab reconciliation stems from our national standing and principles and it is a call aimed at serving the Arab Nation as a whole so that the Arabs can deal with other nations in the spirit of the modern age to win the respect of the world community," said Mr. Sharif.

In reply to a question about the creation of a Higher Council for the Press in Jordan, the minister said that it was a mere idea which was still under consideration.

"Of course there is a big difference between the Jordan Press Association and the projected Higher Council for the Press because the association is an institution aiming to defend the basic rights of journalists and protect their professional duties while the higher council would serve as an arbitration authority ensuring that the association remain committed to its professional ethics and to provide protection from irresponsible writings," the minister said.

He added that the council would direct the journalists' attention to issues of concern to the public and not to echo support for governments, and would urge journalists to seek the truth in all matters and raise their professional level to the aspired standards.

Mr. Sharif noted that in working out a Higher Council for the Press in Jordan, the Ministry of Information was trying to seek experiments from other countries and it has already obtained the laws and regulations of similar councils in Sweden, Spain, Austria and India.

The minister said that the ministry was trying to come up with ideas emanating from laws to be submitted to the parliament for further study.

"I would like to see the national press adhering to the spirit of freedom but with self-imposed controls that by no means reduce freedom of the press," he noted. "At the same time this would help the public know the truth by serving as a responsible tool serving the higher national interests."

In reply to a question about the Jordanian press halting hostile campaigns against the regimes in the Gulf states and Egypt, the minister said that the government did not issue any order to the Jordanian newspapers to launch hostile attacks or refrain from doing so.

Jordan, he noted, is seeking an end to all hostile and propaganda campaign levelled against any Arab country and to transcend the tragedies of the Gulf crisis.

"It is time for Jordan to try to mend fences with all Arab countries to the level of responsibility once again," the minister stressed.

"I believe that this idea was implanted in the heads of the Jordanian journalists, hence they stopped their propaganda campaign which can serve no useful purpose, but rather poison relations among the Arabs under the present tragic situation," he pointed out.

The minister said what the press needed now was a different type of language, with the journalists directing their attention to matters leading away from the tragedy of the Gulf issue.

He expressed his view that Jordanian journalists have realised the need for a change in the attitude and took the initiative to change the tone of their writings that prevailed during the Gulf war.



Mahmoud Al Sharif

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## The wonderful world of books at Jordan University

By E. Yaghi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The library at the University of Jordan (JU) is a haven for seekers of knowledge. It was established in 1962 with the university itself and was in fact one of the first departments.

In the beginning, the library contained a few hundred books and had a staff of 2. Now, there are 102 employees working there; among the staff are highly trained, competent personnel, many of whom have specialised in library science.

At present, the library contains a very comprehensive collection of volumes which total more than 1/2 million. 400,000 of these volumes are monographs and textbooks. The Arabic monographs number 194,774 and English and Latin, 198,670. The total number of bound volumes is more than 100,000 of which 80,000 are foreign periodicals. There are about 3,000 maps in addition to an audio-visual collection comprising around 7,000 units of microfilms, microfiche and microcassettes, tapes and video tapes.

Dr. Farouq Mansour, president of the library, began

working there in 1963 up until 1976. He then transferred to Yarmouk for 12 years where he served as director of Yarmouk Library. From 1986 to 1988, he supervised the library for the University of Science and Technology (JUST) as well as the library at Yarmouk and in 1988 came back to Amman where he has resumed his position as president. Dr. Mansour obtained his Master of Science in Librarianship from Western Michigan University and received his Ph.D. in the Department of Information Studies at the University of Sheffield in 1983. Dr. Mansour's studies were sponsored by the University of Jordan.

Dr. Mansour has conducted many conferences and seminars and has also written many publications concerning various aspects of library science and published several articles in "Ressalat Al Maktabeh," the official journal of the Jordan Library Association. Dr. Mansour has also visited many countries of the world in order to get acquainted with their library and information services and systems.

Since its establishment, throughout the years, the JU library has always been one of the main priorities of the uni-

versity in terms of budget, qualifying personnel, training and so forth. The area of the library comprises 10,500 square metres of floor area. It has a seating capacity of 900 plus 700 seats in faculty reading areas spread throughout the campus. Each faculty contains a reading area which includes seating and a collection of volumes which comprise 150,000. The reading rooms are located at the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Islamic Law, the Faculty of Agriculture, the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Health Sciences, the Faculty of Physical Training, the Faculty of Post-Graduate Studies, a reading room at the University Hospital, the Marine Research Station in Aqaba and one at the university farm in the Jordan Valley.

Concerning the reading areas within the library, there are two reference halls, one for basic references, dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, references, biographies and historical resources. The second is for basic references related to library science, religious and general bibliographies. There is also the Hashemite Library which includes publications related to Jordan and also pub-

lications by the Royal family or information written about them. In addition, there is the Jerusalem Library which contains publications concerning the history about the Holy City of Jerusalem. Furthermore, there is a collection concerning Hebrew work studies.

The JU library is a depository library for UN publications consisting of various agencies such as WHO and UNESCO, the FAO and ILO. The library is also a member of UNESCO Network of Associated Libraries and also serves as a depository for the World Bank in Washington D.C. The library also has direct links with the Library of Congress and some universities in the U.S. and England. There is also photocopying service on available articles in cooperation with over 1,000 universities all over the world. The library receives and gives publications, thereby performing its obligations towards disseminating information about Jordan publications.

On the other hand, the library has received, over the years, many donations from institutions, governments and individuals. Subsequently, it donates a lot of books to local libraries, especially school lib-



Students take advantage of the numerous services offered by the Jordan University Library in Amman

raries and social and sports clubs all over the country.

The library has been utilising information technology for quite some time. For example, computerisation — the library has completed putting all Arabic data on the computer system and the staff has now started working on non-Arabic materials. The library renders on-line computerised information services to other users and very recently, it started using the compact disc (CD) ROM. Complete information systems and data banks are regulated and utilised by PC personnel.

Around 8,000 people enter the library every day between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at which time students use to their advantage the vast facilities of the library

and also reading rooms.

Dr. Mansour stated, "On the library's part, we encourage students and researchers to use our collection not only by providing the traditional accommodations, but also by trying to reach students by means of our publications. For instance, we publish a monthly list which shows new additions to the library. We also publish a bi-annual directory of these deposited at the University of Jordan and outside, especially university libraries."

The library is the largest in Jordan and one of the largest



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### Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

## Everything to everybody — free of charge

Jordanians used to look to their government as if it owned Aladdin's magic lamp and therefore could perform miracles, be everything to everybody and enable its people to have the cake and eat it at the same time. The people are not to be blamed for this irrational attitude. It is the government which does not admit openly that it cannot raise salaries and wages and reduce financial and commercial deficit at the same time. Or that it cannot support and accommodate the requirements of the Armed Forces, provide essential services to the people and reduce its dependence on foreign aid at the same time. Or that it cannot reduce taxes and lower the prices of water and electricity, improve its own financial position, improve consumption and savings simultaneously, be a major investor in development and stop external borrowing altogether.

No government in this small world can expand investments, armaments, and public services without raising taxes, borrowing extensively, seeking Arab or foreign aid or doing all the above or part of it.

These options are contradictory to each other. We cannot reasonably demand them all at the same time; we can't expect rain without the streets getting wet or expect the sunlight without the heat that goes with it.

Those who dared to call for austerity and the freezing of salaries and wages were not people whose purpose was just to harm the working class. They meant to reduce imports and consumption, enhance the competitiveness of the productive sector and narrow the deficit.

By the same token, those who called for raising fuel prices were not after hurting the motorists. They simply wanted to remove distortions that plagued the economy, conserve valuable energy, reduce costly imports, and improve the financial position of the treasury.

There are many desirable objectives and slogans that politicians and columnists normally announce and repeat such as: Supporting the Armed Forces, more public spending on investments, more health facilities, more educational services, reduction of the tax

burden, subsidies for basic commodities, financial assistance for the poor groups, reduction of deficit in the budget, decreasing trade deficit, enhancing self-sufficiency, refraining from external borrowing, independence from foreign aid etc.

But we should realise that those objectives contradict one another. To accomplish one of the targets, we have to accept a sacrifice or a set-back on another count. We have to set our priorities and be ready to pay the price of achieving any objective we want to achieve.

The problem is not confined to the public which was brought up to expect the government to provide everything free of charge and answer all demands simultaneously. The problem extends to many officials, specialists, and public opinion leaders — be them in politics or economics or the media — who play the false game, and demand everything while ignoring its inevitable price, thinking that this malpractice earns them popularity while in effect they lose credibility.

### Selectivity excludes progress

ON THE eve of the start of multilateral regional talks, Israel is attempting to strip them of all meaning and purpose by selecting those which it is willing to attend and discarding the others which it will not attend. In the process, Washington has apparently decided to appease the Israelis by offering unilateral assurances to them to take their side if they would only honour the regional meetings with their presence. A classic example of this carrot and stick diplomacy is the recent assurance offered by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to a delegation from the American Jewish Congress. In it the secretary of state reportedly pledged that the Ottawa talks on refugees would not deal with the Palestinian refugee problem especially their right to return to their homeland as spelled out in the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194 adopted in October of 1948. It will be recalled that Yitzhak Shamir's government has threatened to boycott that meeting if Palestinians from the diaspora are permitted to participate in the meeting because of fear that their presence would lead to deliberations on their right to repatriation in accordance with international legitimacy. In defence of this bizarre line of thinking and logic, Baker submitted the equally strange and untenable argument that the Palestinian refugee issue is essentially a political subject which is better discussed within the context of the bilateral talks between Israel and the Palestinian side. At about the same time, Israel announced that it would stay away from the Brussels multilateral parley again because Palestinian "exiles" were invited to it as well. Maybe Washington will in due course think of something equally strange in its attempts to assuage Israeli fears with regard to the Brussels economic talks and end up making it possible for Israel to attend on its own terms. Of course the Vienna talks on water, and the arms discussions in Washington and the environment deliberations in Tokyo appear to be safe from Israeli threats simply because the Palestinians from outside the occupied territories have been excluded from them. But for the purposes of these three "saved" multilateral negotiations, the representatives of millions of Palestinians who were forced out of their lands in 1948 and later can be treated as non-persons with no say on their future. And when they attend the Ottawa regional peace talks on the subject of refugees they will be allowed to open their mouths on every refugee subject except their own because, as the U.S. has guaranteed Israel, the Palestinian refugee item is political in nature and out of bounds for them.

Well, the peace process in its entirety, be it bilateral or multilateral in nature, is full of anomalies and absurdities, not the least of which is that which is happening before our eyes now. This latest chapter on the multilateral negotiations is but a continuation of the same process that may or may not end by June, when the Israeli general elections are held, and it may or may not crystallise new Israeli thinking on the whole subject of peace in the Middle East. But at the rate it is now pursued, the peace process appears to be headed towards total deadlock.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday commented on a statement by Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Labour Party leader, who called for a limited halt to Jewish settlement programmes in the occupied Arab territories. It is clear that Mr. Rabin's denunciation of the present extent of the Shamir government's settlement programme and his call for excluding the Golan, the West Bank and the Jordan Valley from settlement is not sufficient, said the paper. Mr. Rabin's statement does not represent a real change in Israel's policies with regard to absorbing Jewish immigrants, nor does it reflect the Israeli's change of heart with regard to the Arab population, the paper continued. One should not be deceived by Mr. Rabin's statement directed against Mr. Shamir's government, describing his policy as a wrong policy, because the Arabs want Israel to stop altogether all settlement programmes in all parts of the occupied territories, something which is not advocated by the Labour or the Likud parties, the paper added. It said that the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular demand an end to occupation and a restoration of Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. Therefore, Mr. Rabin's denunciation of Mr. Shamir's Jewish settlement programmes is unable to put an end to the present government's aggressive and expansionist policies and is certainly unable to give impetus to the peace process. Halting the settlement programme remains the main and foremost demand so that the Arab-Israeli peace process can achieve results as there can be no hope for any success in ending the Arab-Israeli conflict as long as the settlements continue, the paper stressed. It said that in the light of Israel's negative attitude towards peace, one can only warn the Arab states that they have a collective duty and national responsibility to confront the continuing Israeli challenge to their lands and their rights.

AL DUSTOUR Arabic daily Saturday welcomed a move on the part of Sudan to mediate between Syria and Iraq to end their differences and close the Arab ranks in the face of common challenges. It would be the first serious efforts of its kind on the part of an Arab leader in the wake of the Gulf crisis to bring about reconciliation among Arab leaders, said the paper. The Sudanese leader's initiative came in time and at a moment when Arab heads of state began to realise that the differences and the isolation can benefit no one and can only bring about more sufferings and frustrations to the Arab World, the paper said. Sudan's efforts are a welcome move and Sudan's diplomacy should be supported and backed by other Arab leaders, especially as the Syrian president was reported to have given consent to the mediation effort, the paper said. It said the move came as the Arabs began to realise that international developments were not in their favour and that sooner or later all Arab states would be facing catastrophes. The paper said that time has come to end inter-Arab differences and to urge Arab leaders to rise to the level of challenges and take serious steps towards reconciling solidarity among their countries to form a united front in the face of external challenges.

## 'U.S. aid to the Arab World is a wise and prudent investment in the stability of the region'

At the beginning of May, the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA) presented a testimony on the U.S. administration's foreign aid request for the Fiscal Year 1993. The statement, presented by NAAA Executive Director Khalil Jahshan, before the House Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee, called on the U.S. Congress to approve the administration's request for \$77 million in foreign assistance to Jordan. Following is the second and last part containing major excerpts from the NAAA statement:

The small aid programme funding economic and social development in the West Bank and Gaza has had perhaps the highest impact of any American aid programme anywhere in the world. It is designed to stimulate private sector activity to support institutions which can serve to channel funds to private borrowers of productive uses in agriculture and industry. Even under the current unsettled conditions on the West Bank and Gaza, the grassroots projects successfully established by the American and indigenous private voluntary organisation (PVOs) are still operational and must continue to be encouraged.

The administration's focus on aid to the occupied territories as a means to provide the essential tools for economic development of the local population has been enhanced by the appointment of a full-time representative of the Agency for International Development (AID) to the West Bank.

### Conclusion:

We believe that the closest possible relationships between the United States and the countries of the Arab world are an essential component for promoting U.S. national security interests in the Middle East. These relationships, built on mutual trust and respect, will benefit all parties concerned.

U.S. foreign aid to the Arab World, in particular, is a wise and

prudent investment in the stability of the region that strengthens already solid friendships and underscores the U.S. commitment to its Arab allies. We urge this subcommittee to review the administration's foreign assistance requests for the Arab countries with sensitivity and concern for their compelling individual needs.

We also ask that this subcommittee require Israel to be held to the same standards of accountability that are applied to all other countries. We believe that the practice of giving more per capita aid to Israel than the entire per capita gross national product of a number of countries in the Middle East and elsewhere should come under intense scrutiny. This is particularly urgent now that increased aid requests are being placed upon the United States worldwide.

Foreign assistance is an important foreign policy tool which, if used wisely, can promote and protect U.S. national interests abroad. Disbursed in a fair and

equitable manner, U.S. aid is an indispensable and worthy mechanism that can assist friendly countries around the world in strengthening their economies and meeting their legitimate defense needs.

We believe, however, that U.S. foreign assistance is not being distributed prudently. A serious reexamination of the way in which the United States allocates its foreign aid dollars has been sorely needed for many years. Unfortunately, the bulk of U.S. foreign aid is given, year after year, to a small number of beneficiaries. A more equitable distribution of U.S. aid to a wide range of deserving nations, however, would be much more successful in promoting U.S. interests worldwide. An optimal dispersal of aid dollars, moreover, would increase the proportion of economic aid in the total assistance package and decrease the emphasis on military hardware.

Perhaps at no time in recent memory has there been a greater need for a reevaluation of our

foreign assistance obligations than in 1992. The collapse of the Soviet Union, the disintegration of the Eastern bloc, and changing realities in the aftermath of the Gulf war have placed compelling aid demands upon the United States at a time when huge deficits have forced sizeable budget reductions and heavily burdened the American taxpayer. The Bush administration and the Congress must rise above political considerations to meet this challenge effectively. Either the foreign aid budget must be increased to accommodate these legitimate assistance demands, or the burden of reallocation must be shared by all.

One of the key components of reform of the foreign aid process would be to restrict the widespread practice in Congress of earmarking the vast majority of aid dollars for certain favoured countries without regard to the effect such allocations have on U.S. commitments elsewhere. While earmarking is theoretically used by Congress in the budget

process as a necessary and desirable check upon the executive branch, its principal use with regard to foreign aid has not been so lofty. Foreign aid earmarking has been used, all too often, not to ensure that all recipients receive their fair share of desperately needed assistance dollars, but rather to protect certain nations from sharing in the burdens associated with a shrinking foreign aid budget.

As a result of this political practice, many necessary but unprotected assistance programmes worldwide have been reduced or terminated as aggregate funding levels for U.S. foreign aid have declined. We believe that this practice has hurt U.S. interests in the Middle East and elsewhere. No country, without exception, should be immune from facing reductions in its foreign aid levels, and we urge this subcommittee, in its deliberations on the FY 1993 foreign aid budget, to recommend a fair and equitable allocation of assistance to all aid recipients in the Middle East.

## Iraq's confidence grows in sanctions fight

By James Anderson  
Reuters

BAGHDAD — Iraq, nearing the end of a second year under a U.N. trade embargo, is showing growing confidence it can outlast the patience of the enemies punishing it for invading Kuwait, diplomats and other foreigners say.

President Saddam Hussein's government dug in its heels again last month against the terms of a U.N. offer to allow limited resumption of oil exports even though hardship is widespread. An official estimate, which foreign relief workers find broadly plausible, says more than 2,500 sick, malnourished or injured children died each month last winter.

Their lives could have been saved if the struggling state health services had the foods, medicines and equipment Iraq used to buy abroad.

Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh, who runs the rationing system, told Reuters that monthly death rates had trebled from pre-1990 figures as the overall health of the population deteriorated under sanctions, now in their 22nd month.

"If it was 300 per cent last month it is sure to be more next month," Mr. Saleh said last week.

But the overall appearance of Iraq is of a country that is functioning, tightly controlled and surprising even itself with its ability to adapt, improvise and rebuild.

Third World diplomats in Baghdad doubt the government will give way on the key issue now on the table in its negotiations with the U.N. — who would control the distribution of food if Iraq were allowed to export oil to buy it.

The state rationing system provides every Iraqi with about half the food the government considers essential for good health at give-away prices.

Families must scramble for the rest in the private market, where prices are very high compared with typical incomes.

The right to be the one that feeds the Iraqi people is jealously guarded by Saddam Hussein's government, in spite of the acknowledged difficulty of doing so.

It says outside supervision over its distribution of food would herald the death of Iraq as a sovereign state and a return to

colonial rule. Although the United States seems all-powerful at the United Nations since the break-up of the Soviet Union, some diplomats think "sanctions fatigue" will set in among governments long before the embargo achieves the U.S. aim of bringing down Saddam Hussein.

"For us, the worst is over," the higher education minister, Abdel Razzak Al Hashimi, told Reuters. "For (U.S. President George) Bush and his coalition, the party's over."

Never short of bravado, the government has always sworn it would hold out.

It has more than just words to show these days.

Every week it invites foreign journalists to see several major projects — bridges, buildings, power stations — reopened after Gulf war air raids.

Iraq makes its own cement and had large stocks of construction steel in hand in 1990. Much of the rebuilding needed only hard work and good organisation.

Machinery is more difficult. With great fanfare, Saddam Hussein drove the first tractor off the assembly line of a new factory

last week. The government said every bit of it was made in Iraq and aims to produce 6,000 tractors a year, a necessity for farmers who cannot find spares for tractors imported before 1990.

How close Iraq is to the bottom of the barrel in its food supplies is secret. The country depended heavily on imported food in the 1980s, when it was fighting a long war with Iran, and used to buy 3.8 million tonnes of wheat a year from the United States.

Release of some frozen assets by Britain, Switzerland and Italy allowed it to bring more than 600,000 tonnes of food — mostly cereals, cooking oil and sugar — from abroad with U.N. approval in recent months.

That is about two months' supply for the rationing system. The grain harvest started in the south in late April. Winter rains were good but officials will not give crop forecasts except to say the outlook is good in spite of problems like a lack of insecticides.

The Trade Ministry has trebled the price it pays to farmers to try to buy as much of the crop as it can for the ration system.

## After riots, who's to blame and who benefits?

By John King  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Emerging from the Los Angeles riots is an inevitable political debate over who's to blame for the devastating racial unrest and, in a presidential election year, who will benefit.

The city's streets were still under siege when the finger-pointing began, and it's unlikely to end soon. The already testy presidential campaign now is spiced with the volatile issues of race, crime, law-and-order and urban decay.

For both President Bush and likely Democratic nominee Bill Clinton, the crisis offers political opportunity — but carries big risks as well. And rivals Patrick Buchanan and Jerry Brown are stirring the mix, not to mention

water said. Mr. Buchanan agreed, saying the liberal welfare state had created "a climate in which this kind of irresponsibility is bred. I think what we saw in the smoking ruins of Los Angeles this last week is the abject and total failure of great society liberalism."

Mr. Clinton countered that such an argument ignored 12 years of Republican control of the White House.

"They have been running against the liberal democratic programmes of the '60s for 25 years and they abolished them in 1981, Mr. Clinton said. "You cannot blame '60s social programmes which have been pummeled out of existence."

That's the kind of back-and-forth over assigning blame that's likely to continue into the fall.

The debate will be complicated by Mr. Clinton's moderate positions. He, too, has been critical of many of the liberal programmes Mr. Bush opposed, and said the federal government would have a crucial but comparatively small role in the rebuilding.

"My agenda assumes that government does not always know what is best or how to do it for the people who live in a community," Mr. Clinton said in a line that could just as well come from a Ronald Reagan speech.

The rioting that followed the Rodney King verdict also gave Mr. Bush a chance to play domestic commander-in-chief, sending in troops to restore order and addressing the nation to explain his actions.

He also promised \$600 million in loans and grants to help rebuild Los Angeles.

The troop deployment and Mr. Bush's harsh words for the rioters projected a tough law-and-order image from a president whose 1988 campaign successfully made crime a centerpiece issue.

Still, those incensed with the acquittal of four white police officers in the videotaped beating of Mr. King are looking to the justice department to mount a federal prosecution, and anything less is likely to bring a cascade of criticism on the president.

## U.S. unemployment, politics delaying 'peace dividend'

By Charles Aldinger  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — High unemployment in the United States and political fighting over how to pay the peace dividend from the cold war have all but killed prospects for a major cut in 1993 U.S. defence spending.

Despite the collapse of the Soviet Union, Congress has even voted in this election year to reverse President George Bush's cancellation of the Seawolf attack submarine and build perhaps two additional boats at a cost of about \$3 billion.

That would temporarily preserve thousands of jobs at the electric boat division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut.

U.S. civilian unemployment is

7.3 per cent and the situation is worse in a battered defence industry, especially in the American northeast. The Pentagon argues that immediate additional troop cuts would put more people in jobless lines.

Lawmakers are threatening to cut spending on the B-2 Stealth bomber and "star wars" anti-missile research but experts say Mr. Bush's proposed \$281 billion fiscal 1993 defence budget will not take a major beating.

"The issue this year is jobs and the November election votes that go with them, not defence cuts," said former Assistant Defence Secretary Lawrence Korb, now with the Brookings Institution.

"There's agreement in Congress that although very deep (military) cuts can be made in the coming decade, there is a need to

tread carefully now," added James Blackwell of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Mr. Bush brought Pentagon spending down to \$281 billion by cancelling the Seawolf after the first of the sophisticated new attack boats is built. But the Senate has voted to build two more boats and the House of Representatives one more.

Critics say the very expensive submarines aren't needed and the U.S. navy ought to go on with development of its cheaper Centurion attack boat.

"It doesn't make any difference if we use the Seawolf for underwater cruises for admirals, jobs are the issue now," countered one senior congressional official, who asked not to be identified.

The Senate has already agreed that Mr. Bush's proposed spending figure for 1993 — which is about \$10 billion below the current Pentagon budget — is not out of line.

The House has voted to cut about \$7 billion from the Bush total, but that cut is likely to be smaller when the budget emerges from Congress later this year.

"With the riots in Los Angeles fresh in the news and the economy making only a very slow recovery, nobody wants to rock the domestic boat right now," said Washington analyst Barry Blechman.

"There will be big cuts as the world situation shakes down, especially if North Korea can assuage international fears about their nuclear programme. But it takes time."

سكنا من الجول



## Delegates address PCC meeting

(Continued from page 1)

All the Palestinians in the bilateral talks are from the occupied territories.

Abu Ali Mustafa, PFLP deputy secretary-general, confirmed that Palestinian negotiators had addressed the council.

"We heard reports from some members of the negotiating team, arguing that the way taken (in the talks with Israel) was right," he said in a written speech a copy of which was made available to Reuters.

Mr. Hussein argued for "the need to pursue the peace process and the participation of Palestinians at all stages of negotiations," the AP reported.

Sources inside the closed-door meeting, now in its third day, told the AP that despite the appear-

ance of the negotiators, opinion remains divided on whether the peace talks should be pursued.

"The negotiating battle has propelled the Palestinian cause before the world and has ended the isolation imposed by the Gulf war," one delegate said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Arafat's bigger worry recently has been harsh criticism from within his own Fatah movement. He was expected to face a hostile council at the current meeting but was given a reprieve by the relief in the PLO that followed his surviving a plane crash last month in the Libyan desert.

The council, which acts as a liaison between the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC, began meeting Thursday.

## Sharif pays tribute to U.S. role

(Continued from page 1)

He said that the citizens of Palestinian origin constitute an integral part of Jordan's life and they carry Jordanian nationality while the Palestinians in the diaspora struggle to return to Palestine. Jordan is deeply keen on resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict because it believes that this would lead to stabilise the region, Mr. Sharif said in reply to a question about the so-called growth of Islamic extremism in Jordan. Jordan has been dealing with Islamic movements over the past four decades and there has never been any problem, he added.

The Islamic movements, he noted, are operating within the concept of political pluralism and have been respecting the democratic rules in Jordan.

The minister said that under the Jordanian Constitution people in the country can form poli-

tical parties and have freedom of expression and publication. In this vein, he noted, the government has now submitted draft laws on political parties and press and publication to Parliament to be discussed in the coming extraordinary session.

In reply to a question on why the Jordanian press carries negative comments about the United States, the minister said that this is countered by a negative image about the Arabs and Muslims in the American media.

He said the Arabs have a feeling that while international legitimacy is being applied around the world Israel is considered an exception and nothing is done against its defiance of the international law.

Hence, he added, the negative images about the United States appearing in the Arabic press.

## U.N. official due in Libya

(Continued from page 1)

18 or older, also are to debate changes in the government.

As stipulated in Col. Qadhafi's third universal theory, also known as the Green Book, Libya's unique system of peoples'

politics expands from the grass roots to a higher general people's congress for final decisions. The yearly process, which results in decisions suggested by Col. Qadhafi, takes about two months.

## Much ado about nothing

(Continued from page 1)

shares." Dr. Waked was referring to a meeting held last week among several members of the Council of Ministers, senior CBJ officials and bankers in Amman. The meeting, according to the official media, discussed the situation of commercial credits in the Kingdom with particular focus on the industrial sector.

Officials have said that the focus on credit for the industrial sector had more to do with the national economic revival and restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rather than a blanket move against any other sector of the economy.

"Obviously, this meeting was seen by many as the forerunner of government moves to squeeze commercial bank credit," Dr. Waked said. "As a result many speculators who had availed themselves of commercial bank loans to finance their dealings rushed to get rid of their shares to ensure their

liquidity and hence the sharp rather than gradual drop in the market."

Dr. Waked believes that there is a need for "rationalisation" of commercial bank credits to avoid sudden plunges in the market. He noted that many banks were reporting excess idle liquidity as a result of deposits by returnees from the Gulf states and as such speculators had easy access to funds.

"Such flow of funds for speculation is harmful for commercial banks since it raises the risk of loss," he said. "That is of course not to mean that all credit should be shut off for stock market dealings, but a more rational policy and parameters should be applied by the banks in extending such facilities."

Dr. Touqan disagrees. "If the pool of savings (with commercial banks) does not contribute to the share market, then it is equally possible that it is invested in real estate," he said. "But the yield on investments in shares is competitive with the yield on real estate investment," he argued.

## Settlements

(Continued from page 1)

In the Gaza Strip, about five new settlements and 600 residents were added, and in the Golan Heights about 2,000 new residents moved into existing settlements.

The proliferation of settlements since the current Israeli government took over in 1990 has been a continuing thorn in U.S.-Israeli relations. This year it was the primary reason Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to absorb Soviet Jews fell by the wayside.

Some 370,000 new immigrants have arrived in Israel since 1989.

## Kabul truce

(Continued from page 1)

the collapse of the old regime under President Najibullah.

But the ruthless fighters in their distinctive tribal dress are widely feared in Kabul and blamed for much of the looting in the city in recent weeks.

People living on the frontline between the Mujahideen rulers and hardline guerrillas on the southern and western edges of Kabul continued to leave their homes with their belongings for fear that rocketing that killed more than 50 people this week could start again.

At one of the city's high schools, teachers said they cried on Saturday when they arrived to find the buildings ransacked.

A deputy principal of the Rabia-i-Balkhi Girls' High School said it used to be one of the richest in Kabul, but everything of value had been stolen since the Mujahideen took power in Kabul two weeks ago.

Kabul's schools opened for only a week in March after a three-month winter holiday before the former regime closed them down as the political situation worsened.

The new government, keen to show the city is returning to normal, announced two days ago that schools would reopen. But Kabul University, a hotbed of radical Islamic and communist thought in the past, remained closed. Professors said they did not expect the university to reopen before the end of the month.

## Iran polls

(Continued from page 1)

Among defeated radicals was Ayatollah Khamenei's brother Hadi, who lost his seat from the northeastern city of Mashhad.

Two women were elected from Tabriz in the northwest. With a woman elected from Mashhad in the first round and five placed to win in Tehran, the number of women candidates in the Majlis is set to double to eight.

Radicals charged that the opposing faction had used its power unfairly to disqualify dozens of their candidates in the election, the first to be held since the 1989 death of Ayatollah Khomeini.

There were no widespread accusations of vote-rigging in the first round and the radicals said they respected the will of the people and put up a strong campaign in the second round. Some radicals such as Mr. Mohtashemi kept up strong attacks on their rivals. He said in a speech that the Majlis faced a "dark prospect" if the first-round results were repeated in the runoff.

# Jordan's agricultural sector — achievements and obstacles

By Ali Ghezawi

Jordan is a small country, short of many natural resources, especially water. The Kingdom's economic structure has been influenced by a variety of factors directly related to the availability of economic resources.

About 8.6 per cent of Jordan's land, or 2.4 million dunums, receives 200 mm rainfall annually and, therefore, is considered as potentially cultivable. All the cultivable land lies in the highlands, except for 390,000 dunums which make up the irrigated area of the Jordan Valley. It is worth highlighting that the valley produces approximately 40 per cent of the gross agricultural production and 70 per cent of the gross earnings of the agricultural sector. The cultivated land has 58 per cent with field crops, 29 per cent

covered by fruit trees and the remaining 13 per cent vegetables.

In 1990, the agricultural sector contributed 7.4 per cent of Jordan's GDP, while the relatively newly developed manufacturing sector accounted for about 14 per cent. However, the agricultural sector derives its importance from being the main source of income for about 21 per cent of the population. In addition, it provided employment to more than 7 per cent of the total labour force in 1990. Today, the sector contributes to improve the Kingdom's trade deficit and is considered as an instrument in achieving food security.

The sector's output has improved as a result of widely-used irrigation, adoption of technolo-

gical farming methods and increased capital investment in the sector.

In 1990, plant production, which consists of field crops, vegetables, and fruit tree, reached 967 thousands tonnes, a growth of 27 per cent over the 1980.

Despite the significant growth in agricultural output during the last decade, the sector has not been able to meet the increasing demand, as a result of the natural population growth of 3.6 per cent. Also, the return of more than 300,000 expatriates from the Gulf imposed another constraint on the agricultural production.

Rainfall fluctuation is another obstacle in planning future agricultural strategy programmes. Reduced rainfall limits the supply

of irrigation water; it also reduces the area to be cultivated. Restriction is also imposed in the types of cultivated crops.

Another key factor in the agricultural sector is marketing. The Gulf crisis restricted the economic relations between Jordan and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and deprived Jordan of traditional markets for its produce.

Land fragmentation and joint ownership of land also has a great impact in the reduction and efficiency of the sector's production.

Furthermore, the increasing acquisition of good agricultural land by municipalities for housing purposes reduces the area of arable land and, consequently, agricultural production.

cultural production.

The government gave priority to the development of the agricultural sector during the last three decades. In order to achieve the proposed objectives, the government built the King Abdullah canal and several dams through the Kingdom enabling the utilisation of the flood water for agricultural uses. However, due to limited water resources in the Jordan Valley, the focus shifted to the neglected rainfed highlands. Several farmers begun farming in the desert too using the strategic aquifers water at high cost.

Jordan's agricultural sector should be given more attention to meet the increasing demand locally and abroad.

# Israeli award tears Arab literary world apart

By Sami Aboudi

Reuter

JERUSALEM — The Arab literary world is torn over whether one of its giants, 70-year-old Emile Habibi, should accept Israel's first ever prize for Arabic literature.

The novelist from Nazareth, the largest Arab town in Israel, is due to receive the \$8,300 Israel prize for Arabic literature on May 7.

"I believe Emile Habibi deserves many prizes and this one would not add anything to his prestige," said Assad Al Assad, a leading Palestinian poet and writer from East Jerusalem. Criticism stems largely from concern that Israel's granting of the prize to an Arab writer overshadows its persistent restrictions on Palestinian novelists, journal-

ists and poets.

Israel imposes severe censorship on the Arabic press and closely monitors Arab writing. It has at times closed Palestinian and Israeli-Arab newspapers and magazines, accusing them of incitement.

Mr. Habibi, who admits to hesitating before consenting to accept the award, does not agree. He insists it represents a recognition by Israel of the importance of Arabic literature.

"Sound people here regard the prize as a new pulpit for our existence. It is a recognition of our culture and heritage," said Mr. Habibi, who received the Palestine prize for literature from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in 1990.

He says he plans to accept the Israeli prize at an official ceremony next week and give the

money to a Palestinian charity in the occupied West Bank.

A team of Israeli scholars recommended Mr. Habibi for the prize but the Education Ministry hesitated for months before approving the nomination. Israel awards a prize for Hebrew literature every four years.

The Israeli announcement has polarised the Arab literary arena and there have been fierce debates in Arabic newspapers in the West Bank, Israel and abroad between critics and supporters.

Mr. Habibi, who favours U.S.-brokered talks to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, has won fame in the Arab World for works which meld Arab heritage with modern concepts.

His most renowned work, "Strange Events in the Disappearance of Said Abu Al Nahs

Al Mutashael," published in the mid-1970s, was translated into several foreign languages.

In that work he coined the word "pessoptimist" to describe the dilemma of an Israeli-Arab who tries to be all things to all people.

"The question is whether this prize is an acknowledgment for his literary works or for his political stands," said Mr. Assad, referring to Mr. Habibi's moderate political views.

Yet Israeli-Arab writer Salman Natour said Israel was compelled to award the prize to Mr. Habibi because of the quality of his work.

"The Education Ministry's decision to award the prize can be regarded as a right taken and not given," he said.

Israeli-Arab poet Sameeh Al

Qassem dismissed the entire controversy as "frivolous."

"It is a trivial issue, especially at a time when blood is being spilled and houses are being destroyed," he said, referring to Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

Israeli-Arab poet Shafiq Habib faces up to three years in jail for publishing a book on the four-year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The book was banned and Mr. Habib jailed briefly for his work.

Some Palestinian writers are more worried by the division in their ranks than the issue itself.

"It is clear that the (Israeli) authorities were clever enough to put the ball in our court," said Mr. Natour. "The question is how to respond to that in a clever way."

# Toll still mounting as Kuwait battles to clear Gulf war mines

By Diana Abdallah

Reuter

KUWAIT — Mines and unexploded shells from the Gulf war are scattered as far as the eye can see in Kuwait's desert, and at least 85 bomb disposal experts have died so far trying to remove them.

"When you deal with so many mines it is nerve-racking ... you take a deep breath after each mine you defuse," said Floyd Rockwell from U.S. Conventional Munitions Systems (CMS), a private company under contract for the clearance work which is being done by both private and military experts.

More than 85 ordnance experts — including Americans, Britons and Egyptians — are believed to have been killed by mines and unexploded shells and bombs left over from the 1991 war, say those involved in the clearance operation.

At least 4,000 civilians have been killed or injured, they add. Doctors at Kuwaiti hospitals say

they see people who have stepped on mines or been hurt by unexploded shells or bullets two days a week on average.

CMS experts say they have so far cleared 40,000 mines while British Royal Ordnance, the army team first into the field, has dealt with up to a quarter of a million. The American and British teams say they each still have about a million mines to defuse.

So far, according to the Kuwaiti Defence Ministry, a total of 2,549 tonnes of munitions have been defused and 7,751 tonnes destroyed. More than 700,000 mines have been dismantled.

Barbed wire and signs in English and Arabic warning of mines are not proving adequate deterrents to the careless or inquisitive — especially to bedouins who wander into minefields with their camels. The decaying remains of dozens of camels litter the minefields.

The mines were laid by Iraq as its line of defence against U.S. and allied forces. But the allies

swept through undeterred in February 1991 to end Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

The mines are relatively easy to spot — the Iraqis laid them in a known military pattern — three anti-personnel mines surrounding every anti-tank mine.

Harder to detect are unexploded shells and bombs dropped by the allies over Kuwait during the war, the experts say.

"We go to the police and to schools and warn them about the hazards, but some people still pick up ordnance as souvenirs and children play with it thinking they are toys," said Mike Murray of CMS.

Frequent Ministry of Defence advertisements in Kuwaiti newspapers warn of the dangers. But almost every week comes news of men, women or children killed or maimed by mines or shells.

The Ministry of Defence says most civilian areas and two major air bases have been cleared of mines and ammunition. Coastal waters and shipping lanes were

cleared in October.

But the clearance operation is expected to last two more years.

Even then, experts say, the emirate's desert, streets and beaches will not be completely safe.

Explosives experts say large parts of the Kuwaiti beachfront have been cleared but await final inspection by Kuwaiti army engineers before they are declared safe.

CMS, which has deployed 150 American disposal experts, won a \$134 million contract to clear a U.S. sector. Other sectors are allocated to British, French, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Egyptian, Turkish and Kuwaiti teams.

Walt Tanner, heading the CMS operation in Kuwait, said that in their 2,000 kilometres sector they had to clear a minefield stretching 140 kilometres and remove thousands of tonnes of unexploded ordnance as well as military vehicles and trenches.

"Now the war is over, you get this huge mess left," he said.

Ordnance experts say they have problems with some mines — especially East European ones — that detonate spontaneously in the heat of the desert.

"This is the first time that anything near this size has taken place from a commercial point of view and nothing approaching the variation has ever been attempted," said Joe Wharram, operations room manager of Royal Ordnance.

"We've got such a variation of types and sizes of ammunition. From Europe, South America, China, Russia — you name it — any country that produces ammunition, you will find examples of it here in Kuwait," he said.

In most cases the disposal experts have to work on mines with their bare hands.

Royal Ordnance's first task was to clear thousands of mines from Kuwait's oilfields, paving the way for firefighters to tackle more than 700 blazing oil wells torched by retreating Iraqi troops.

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## Al Dustour Championship begins today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Sports Palace Court at Al Hussein Youth City Sunday witnesses the opening of a miniature Arab basketball tournament — the Al Dustour Basketball Championship — organised on the occasion of the newspaper's 25th anniversary.

Seven top-ranked Arab teams representing four countries will be competing. They are: Iraqi first division titleholders and 1990 Arab basketball champions Al Karhi, runners up Al Shurtia Club, the Sudanese national team, Al Markazi and Al Reyadi clubs from Lebanon, and Jordan's top-ranked all-time rivals Al Orthodox and Al Ahli.

Competition is expected to be tough and very competitive as the participating teams represent the best of their countries' basketball. Naser Bushnaq of Al Ahli will be playing after a long absence due to an injury and subsequent surgery.

Al Karhi includes seven international players including Thamer Mustafa, Nasir Ahmad and Qusai Hatan. "We focused on grouping top-ranked teams so that there would be a high standard of competition," senior official of the organising committee Mohammad Qadri Hassan told the Jordan Times.

"We hope this competition will be a starting point toward revitalising Arab basketball and a chance for the participating teams to get better acquainted and work together to further enhance their experience and Arab basketball in general through such tournaments," he said, adding: "We would have liked many more teams to participate. We hope that will happen in future competitions."

The opening ceremony will be held Sunday afternoon and will be attended by Minister of Youth Saleh Irshaidat and a number of officials. Official guests include Tony Khoury, president of the Lebanese Olympic Committee and founding member of the Arab Basketball Federation, the president of the Sudanese Basketball Federation, as well as officials of the participating teams.

In the tournament's opening match the Sudanese national team will play Jordan's Al Ahli after the opening ceremonies.

## No crisis over Barcelona entry, say IOC, organisers

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Barcelona games organisers issued a joint message Saturday on the threat of chronic overcrowding in the Olympic village — "Crisis? What crisis?"

A total of 19,400 athletes and officials from 162 teams have so far registered for the Olympic village, which can hold a maximum of 15,000.

Cries of alarm from the Barcelona Organising Committee (COOB '92) have become increasingly strident in recent months amid warnings that the village is not made of elastic.

COOB has blamed the IOC for failing to address the problem but Saturday's meeting between the games organisers and the IOC executive board was described as very friendly and open by IOC information director Michele Verdier.

The only thing lacking was a solution.

It was agreed that no action would be considered until May 25 10 days after next Friday's deadline by which teams must submit the names of the athletes and officials they plan to send to the games, which open on July 25.

Officials hope that the numbers

will have dropped sufficiently to prevent any need for further measures.

If fresh steps are necessary, they could include faster rotation in the village, with athletes moving in shortly before their events and departing soon afterwards. A total of 400 athletes competing in demonstration sports would be housed elsewhere.

However, COOB is unenthusiastic about the rotation idea because it would allow teams to dictate how much strain would be imposed on logistical services at any one time.

Nor is anyone sure how many athletes will try to remain in the village as "tourists" after their sports have finished.

But Mr. Verdier told a news conference: "There is absolutely no crisis. There is a problem but we have the mechanism to resolve it."

The same line came from COOB despite its vehement warnings in recent months.

"There is no crisis today and we're trying to avoid any conflict later on," COOB chief executive Jose Miguel Abad told the news conference.

"We won't speculate on figures anymore. Let's wait until we can get down to realities rather than theories."

Abad also dealt with a request by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) for changes in the track and field schedule which would give American Michael Johnson, the world's fastest man over 200 and 400 metres, the chance to tackle both events.

COOB dumped the problem squarely back in the lap of the IAAF by insisting it needed a written undertaking that the IAAF would be responsible for meeting any legal claims resulting from a changed timetable.

Mr. Abad stressed that it would not be a technical problem to switch the 200 and 400 metres finals to separate days.

But he said COOB had agreed television schedules with the networks and sold tickets to the public on the basis of the timetable contained in a contract signed with the IAAF two years ago.

He also said COOB had received a copy of a letter sent by American star Carl Lewis to the IAAF opposing any changes.

If the timetable were altered in favour of Johnson, Lewis said he, too, would seek late changes to enable him to add the 200 metres to his present schedule of 100 metres, 4x100 metres relay and long jump.

## Seles reaches Italian Open final

ROME (R) — World number one Monica Seles overcame a spirited challenge from South African outsider Amanda Coetzer to reach the final of the women's Italian Open with a 6-0, 6-4 victory Saturday.

The Yugoslav began the match in superb form and took the first set without dropping a game in just 26 minutes.

But the 16th-seeded Coetzer, who beat third-seeded American Jennifer Capriati earlier this week, made Seles work much harder for the second set.

Seles broke Coetzer to go 2-1 up but the South African immediately broke back.

Coetzer then had a breakpoint for a 3-3 lead but Seles held and then broke Coetzer in the next game after a series of deuces to effectively end the South African's challenge.

Seles, bidding for her sixth title of the season, will play the winner of the second semifinal between defending champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and American Mary Jo Fernandez in Sunday's final.

"When I was really up (at the beginning of the second set) I started playing a little defensively," Seles said.

The world number one said a gusty wind on the centre court had made life a little difficult on another hot day at the elegant Foro Italico.

"Whoever I meet in the final I'll have to play a lot better than I've done the whole week," Seles added.

The 18-year-old Seles, beaten only once this year, has however not dropped a set this week and looks in prime form.

Coetzer clearly had no answer in the first set.

"I didn't know what to do. She was playing so well and I wasn't doing anything wrong," the South African said.



Monica Seles

## JORDAN SOCCER ROUNDUP

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The sixth week of soccer's first division championship ended with Al Ramtha and Al Hussein topping the overall standings while titleholders Al Wihdat slipped further down to sixth position.

In the first of two matches held Friday, Al Faisali drew 2-2 with Al Ahli in an important match as both teams have not lost a game yet. Al Faisali relentlessly attacked Al Ahli's goal and scored an early goal by Khaled Awad in the 8th minute.

In the second half Al Ahli tightened their defence and managed to equalise from a penalty kick by Amer Munib. This was followed by another goal which gave Al Ahli a 2-1 lead.

Al Faisali did not give in and kept up their attempts as Jamal Abu Abed scored the equalising goal from a header to add a point for his team in the overall standings.

Meanwhile at Al Hassan Sports City Stadium in Irbid, Al Hussein defeated newcomer to the division, Yarmouk Amman, 1-0.

Al Hussein had many chances to score, as they dominated the first half, but Yarmouk's defence and alert goalkeeper managed to end the first half scoreless.

Al Hussein scored their only goal by Jamal Nawasrah in the final minutes of the match.

The upset of the week was Al Wihdat's 2-0 defeat to Al Qadissieh. Al Wihdat faced a tough Qadissieh defence and an alert goalkeeper, Khaled Abdul Fattah, who aborted many chances as the first half ended scoreless.

Al Qadissieh set the pace in the second half as they scored their first goal by Mazen Shahin in the 61st minute, followed by another goal by Mustafa Adam in the 67th minute, to end the match with a precious victory for Al Qadissieh who are now aiming at improving their standing while Al Wihdat, the current titleholders, faced another humiliation and disappointed their fans.

Al Wihdat sorely missed the experienced players, Naser Ghandour, Yousef Al Shammari, and Imad Al Zagher.

In another match Al Arabi and Sahab played a moderate match which ended in a 1-1 draw.

After the first half ended scoreless, a pass from Ayman Al Omari to Ala' Al Roussan scored Al Arabi's goal in the 63rd minute. Sahab's Ameer Al Ashab scored his team's equalising goal soon after, denying Al Arabi their first chance to score a win.

In the upcoming matches Yarmouk Amman plays Al Wihdat and Al Hussein clashes with Al Faisali Monday, while Al Arabi plays Al Qadissieh and Al Ahli plays Al Ramtha Tuesday.

### STANDINGS

	Played	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Al Ramtha	5	3	2	—	10	3	8
Al Hussein	5	3	2	—	9	5	8
Al Qadissieh	5	2	3	1	7	4	7
Al Faisali	5	1	4	—	5	6	6
Al Ahli	5	1	2	2	6	7	4
Al Wihdat	5	1	2	2	6	7	4
Sahab	5	1	2	2	7	11	4
Yarmouk Amman	5	1	1	3	4	9	3
Al Arabi	5	—	2	4	6	12	2

### SPORT NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Czyz retains WBA cruiserweight title

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (R) — Bobby Czyz of the United States mauled an outclassed but courageous Donny Lalonde of Canada and took a 12-round unanimous decision to retain his World Boxing Association (WBA) cruiserweight championship. The shorter, stronger Czyz had no problem with Lalonde, who was fighting for only the fifth time and the first against a ranked opponent following a 34-month layoff that ended last September. The 30-year-old Czyz, making his third defence of the 190-pound title he won 14 months ago, knocked down Lalonde in the first round. Things didn't get any better for the Canadian during the next 11 rounds. Czyz, now 40-5 with 26 knockouts, methodically and relentlessly stalked an ineffective Lalonde, taking virtual target practice the final six rounds of the one-sided bout.

#### Bowe stays undefeated

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Undefeated Riddick Bowe kept his place in line for a possible shot at the heavyweight title Friday night by stopping Everett Martin in the fifth round of a scheduled 10-rounder. Referee Toby Gibson stopped the fight at 2:28 of the fifth round of the advice of ringside physician Flip Homansky after Bowe opened a big cut over Martin's left eye. Bowe, ranked as high as second in the world by the various boxing organisations,

fought patiently against the journeyman but was landing some heavy shots in the final round when Gibson stopped the action and had the doctor look at the eye. Homansky said Martin did not appear to want to continue.

#### Bubka returns to Ukraine

BERLIN (AP) — Unhappy with training conditions in Berlin, pole vault world record holder Sergei Bubka has returned to his native Ukraine to prepare for the Barcelona Olympics, an official said Friday. Bubka signed a contract with a Berlin club in January and moved with his family to a city apartment. But Rudi Thiel, track and field director of the OSC Berlin Club, said Bubka has returned to Donetsk in Ukraine to prepare for the Olympics. Bubka complained that the indoor hall he was using was becoming overcrowded.

#### Budd outside Olympic qualifying mark

CAPE TOWN (R) — Zola Budd's hopes of representing South Africa at the Barcelona Olympics suffered a severe setback when she finished outside the 3,000 metres qualifying time. Budd, who now runs under her married name of Pieterse, clocked a disappointing eight minutes 57.47 seconds on her favourite Cheetah Track.

## Marseille refuse to play charity cup final

MARSEILLE, France (R) — Marseille have said they would not play the charity French Cup final scheduled for next week to raise funds for relatives of victims of the Bastia Stadium disaster.

"After hearing the position of Bastia's players and officials, Marseille's players, supporters and officials have decided unanimously not to take part," Marseille Vice-President Jean-Louis Levean said.

The French Soccer Federation (FFF) decided Thursday to stage a charity final between Marseille and Monaco out of solidarity with relatives of spectators killed when

a temporary stand at Bastia's stadium collapsed Tuesday.

The FFF said the final would be official even though there would be no awards ceremony.

At least 12 fans were killed in the tragedy before the kick-off of the cup semifinal between Bastia and Marseille.

The Corsican team Thursday said they did not support the idea of such a final.

Marseille officials asked the FFF to have the semifinal against Bastia rescheduled shortly before the next league season and to stage the cup final a week before the league resumed.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMAR HIRSCH  
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
♠ A J 10  
♥ A 10 5  
♦ A J 9 4  
♣ 7 5 2

WEST EAST  
♠ Q 7 5 ♠ 8 6 2  
♥ 7 3 2 ♥ 9 8 6 4  
♦ 7 6 ♦ K 8 5 3  
♣ A 10 8 6 3 ♣ Q 4

SOUTH  
♠ K 9 4 3  
♥ Q Q J  
♦ Q 10 2  
♣ K J 9

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass  
3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠. If there is one facet of card play that distinguishes the expert from the average player it is the ability to resist the urge to win a trick at the first opportunity. Give most players a sure trick in the suit and the possibility of winning a second and no thought is devoted to the hand as a whole, which might dictate a holdup as a means of guaranteeing the contract. This hand illustrates our point.

South held a maximum for a two-no-trump response. With a square hand and only a weak four-card major, South saw no reason to intro-

duce the spade suit when a bid that described both the strength and shape of the hand was available.

West led a low club and declarer captured the queen with the king. South had available seven fast tricks. One way to establish two more was to guess which defender held the queen of spades. Since that was an even-money proposition, declarer chose to cash the ace and king of spades, in the hope of dropping the queen, then fall back on the diamond finesse when the lady did not appear. Unfortunately, East held the king of diamonds, and a club return permitted the defenders to reel off four club tricks and the queen of spades as well as the king of diamonds—down two.

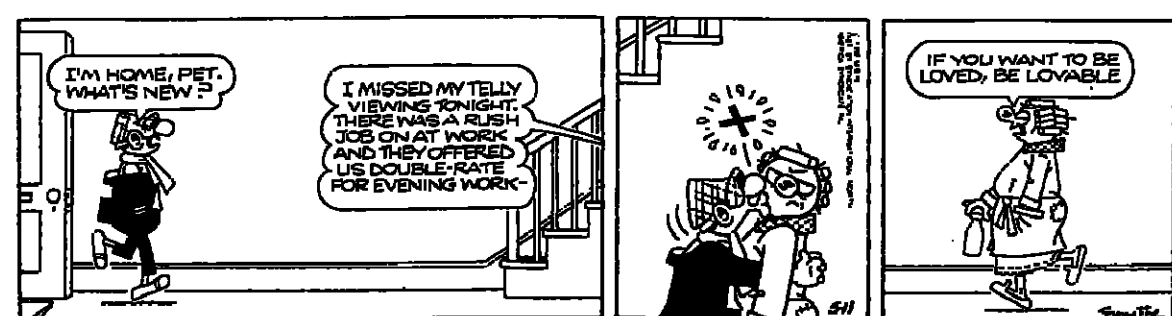
Declarer did well to increase the chances of landing the contract by attempting to drop the queen of spades. However, there was available a sure-trick line. All declarer had to do was refuse to win the first trick!

Since no shift can harm declarer, the best the defenders can do is return a club. Even if West can profitably hold up on this trick, declarer can now take the diamond finesse with complete safety. If it loses and East has a club to return, that suit is breaking 4-3 and the most the defenders will be able to collect is three club tricks and a diamond.

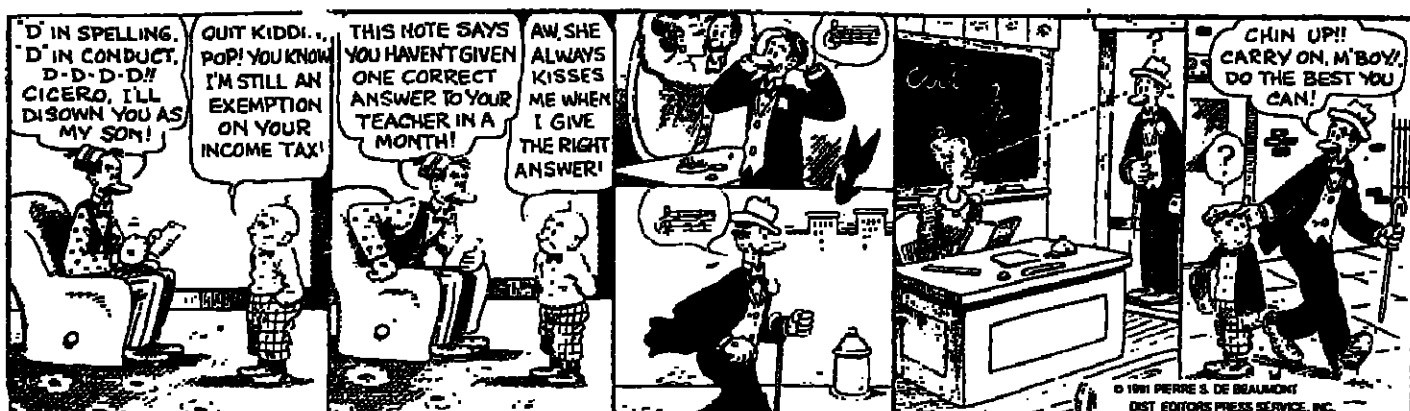
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 10, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** This well aspected Mothers Day with the Moon in mutable Virgo finds you thinking of the other fellow rather than being wrapped up and preoccupied with little interests. Live the Golden Rule.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You are filled with the personal desires which activate you most powerfully and you should proceed with them with courage and with confidence.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) A private consultation this day with any experts of a confidential nature who understands your wishes makes it possible to devise an excellent campaign of action.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) All kinds of very progressive and alert friends are now willing to go along and to help you gain the personal goals that pressure you forward.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You now would be wise to consider what you can do, you have left undone that can help you have a broader, better standing in your community.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Think about how you can better apply yourself in a number of varied ways to the schools of thought that mean the most to you at this time.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) A day to consider where your attachment would have the

greatest amount of pleasure as well as enjoying yourself to the fullest as well, so go there.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You certainly have the chance this day to go out in the world to meet some very interesting personalities and become friendly with them.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A day to consider just how you can be helpful and of service to those with whom you have done little lately but where you can be constructive.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Make sure you get out and do those recreations that especially appeal to you for you should have an exceptionally good time at such outings.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You can level the tone of conditions at your residence by an optimistic and a new appreciation of the best points of your family members.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Now you are the one who needs to get in touch with as more persons as possible and to renew whatever friendly relations may have been sagging.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Even though it is a Sunday you should have good ideas on how to increase your income and assets and devise an intelligent plan to do so during the coming days.

## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Don't be so stubborn! If your fever is that high, go see a doctor!"

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LURTY

IMPER

GIRFID

RITHEH

Both candidates make sense to me

THAT MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD MAKES ENEMIES

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:  AND

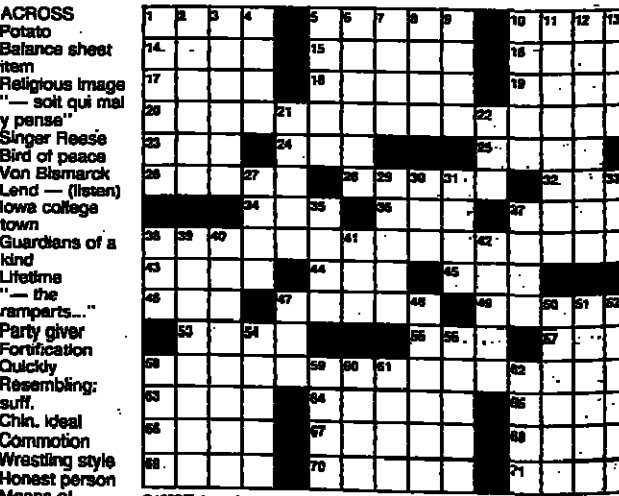
(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: YOUTH MOUSE PURITY AWEIGH

Answer: A budget is what you can stay within WHEN YOU GO WITHOUT

## THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Counts



ACROSS  
1 Potato  
5 Balance sheet  
10 Religious image  
14 "—" soft qui mal y pense  
15 Singer Patsie  
16 Bird of peace  
17 Von Blomberg  
18 Lend — (lessen)  
19 Iowa college town  
20 Guardians of a kind  
23 Lifetime  
24 "—" the ramps...  
25 Party giver  
26 Fortification  
28 Quickly  
30 Resembling:  
31 Chin. ideal  
36 Commotion  
37 Wrestling style  
38 Honest person  
43 Means of restraint  
44 Falsehood  
45 Night creature  
46 Blue  
47 Adolescent years  
48 Pries  
49 Sage  
50 Before, pref.  
57 Explosive  
58 Starting over  
59 Chills and fever  
64 Wood  
65 Vicinity  
66 Tree trunk  
67 River in Italy  
68 Sure  
69 Oil herb  
70 Glazed  
71 Vortex

DOWN  
1 Sympogue trumpet  
2 Fr. soup  
3 Looseend  
4 Fashion name  
5 Maxim  
6 Sp. lady  
7 Toboggan  
8 Actor Jack  
9 Edible root  
10 Potato state  
11 Debuts  
12 Extra work  
13 Lock  
21 Japanese statesman  
22 Common word  
27 — impasse (deadlock)  
29 Holy city  
30 Cg. — (Carnegie)  
31 Sin. — (sinner)  
33 Steele  
35 Give the eye  
37 Alone  
38 Graduating class: abbr.  
39 Serving item  
40 Make fun of  
41 Hurry  
42 Landlord  
43 Asian holiday  
48 Tropical plant  
50 Put away  
51 Group of nine  
52 Like a sauna  
54 Trapsnoot  
56 Appraised  
58 — au rum  
59 Edible tubers  
60 Jerk or pop  
61 Reagin  
62 Naturalness

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



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## Kiev appears to roll back on reforms

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk appeared to be rolling back on economic reforms Friday after issuing a decree strengthening the role of state purchases — the traditional refuge of communist planned economy.

A decree published in Friday's Kiev newspapers also exposed a big power struggle in Ukrainian leadership between reformers and conservatives who want to brake moves to a market economy.

"During the transition of the Ukrainian economy to the market, implementation of state purchases will be obligatory, the decree read.

Under the compulsory state purchase system, already scrapped in Russia, the state buys goods produced by factories whether these are wanted or not.

The system was used by the leadership of the now defunct Soviet Union to force industry to meet production targets.

During the perestroika era of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev their continued use was denounced by economists as a barrier to attempts to reform

the system.

Publication of the decree touched off an angry reaction from liberal economists trying to launch a market-oriented plan to overturn seven decades of communist planning in Ukraine.

"The decree halts completely all movement in the direction of the market," said an aide to one of two economists drawing up a reform programme to move to the market.

The economists' original version of the decree, based on Western-style tendering for government contracts, was altered drastically without consultation, he said.

"We are prepared to resign unless this decree is rescinded," he said.

The two economists, Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Yanov, head of Mr. Kravchuk's chief advisory body, had clashed for months over the direction of economic policy, with Mr. Yanov initially considered a conservative.

But the two men, both abroad

when the decree was published, have moved closer in the past week, drawing up battle lines with an increasingly influential conservative faction led by former economics minister Anatoly Minchenko.

The clash is likely to come to a head Monday at a meeting of a coordinating committee headed by Mr. Yanov.

Mr. Yanov has been broadly entrusted with steering the Ukrainian economy through its transition to the market and it was not clear why his opinion was bypassed.

His plan to reform the economy has won broad approval from the International Monetary Fund, which Ukraine and most other former Soviet republics joined last month.

Statistics published in Friday's edition of the daily Nezavisimost newspaper showed Ukraine's economy still in a deep slump, with production falling 15.3 per cent in the first quarter.

Production of consumer goods fell 22.2 per cent.

## African leaders call for better deal from West

KAMPALA (R) — Seven African leaders appealed for a better deal from the West when they began two-day talks with aid agencies and donors in the Ugandan capital Friday.

"Africa today is rightfully expecting support from the West on the same scale as that given to Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe," Benin President Nicéphore Soglo, a former World Bank official, told a meeting of the Global Coalition for Africa, an international think-tank.

The Kampala meeting will discuss famine, war, debt, democracy and economic stagnation.

Senegalese President Abdou Diouf in his opening remarks accused the West of imbalances when distributing aid around the world.

"We call upon our partners in the West to show a more balanced approach when distributing aid. More and more is now going into Eastern Europe," he said.

Botswana President Quett Masire added: "Assistance to Africa is no less important than it is to other areas of the world."

The meeting is also attended by host President Yoweri Museveni, World Bank Vice-President Edward Jaycox, Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Salim Ahmed Salim, officials of the EC and International Monetary Fund.

It is co-chaired by President Masire, Dutch Development Minister Jan Pronk and Robert McNamara, former president of the World Bank.

The meeting will discuss Africa's \$270 billion debt. Statistical evidence of the continent's decline is overwhelming. Population

Africa's exports were badly hit when world commodity markets tumbled at the start of the 1980s.

Despite a recovery in world prices for base metals such as copper, those for many cash crops like cocoa and coffee remain depressed. Coffee prices are at 20-year lows.

African members of the group want to raise growth in gross national product to between four and five per cent per year, double domestic savings from 12 to 18 per cent of gross domestic product by the year 2000.

They also want to cut or hold constant debt service as a proportion of export earnings.

## Pirelli announces \$588 million loss

MILAN (R) — Italian tyre and cables group Pirelli SPA Friday said it lost 729 billion lire (\$588 million) in 1991, slightly more than initially forecast, although its performance improved over the first quarter of this year.

Pirelli said earlier this year it expected to have lost 690 billion lire (\$557 million) in 1991 as a result of its failed bid to merge its tyre interests with those of German rival Continental A.G. and the heavy costs of a restructuring plan.

The world's fifth largest tyre maker said the increased loss reflected a worse than expected end to the year in all of its three business areas — tyres, cables

and diversified products which range from sports equipment to car components.

It made a profit of 153 billion lire (\$123 million) in 1990.

Pirelli, whose turnover fell one per cent to 10.2 trillion lire (\$8.15 billion) last year, plans to sell its diversified products division to raise around one trillion lire (\$813 million) to cut debt.

But so far it has not complete any asset sales.

In a statement accompanying the results, it said the first three months of 1992 were better than last year, despite still sluggish international economic growth, as its drive to cut costs brought benefits.

## Shaanan pinpoints export hindrances

# JTA pushes hard to explore new markets for Jordanian products

By Salam Al Shawwa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The latest numbers on Jordanian exports show a decrease from JD 612,252 million in 1990 to JD 598,627 million in 1991 due to an additional commission imposed by the central bank on exporters and a consumption tax levied by the Ministry of Finance/Customs in addition to hardships faced by the private sector in opening new markets for their products, according to a number of industrialists.

The industrialists said that despite government measures to enhance the role of the private sector and boost external trade to support the Kingdom's balance of payments, the export process has not reached a mechanism where both the government and the private sector could work together to fulfill aims that could strengthen the national economy.

To overcome difficulties in opening new markets, especially when the traditional markets in the neighbouring countries proved unreliable during the Gulf crisis, Jordan Trade Association (JTA) has adopted a scientific approach to carry out the process of finding out new and non-traditional markets for Jordanian exports.

In its endeavours, JTA has succeeded in forming a direct relationship with the International Commerce Centre in Geneva, via a computer system, whereby pressing a key button all the required information about any country or market could be obtained.

"It was the lack of information that hindered Jordan's export drive. It is this information system that is the secret behind our success now," Fawaz Al Shaalan,

JTA secretary-general told the Jordan Times.

He said that the JTA plan for this year has three main directions:

1) Conducting market surveys which entail choosing and studying major markets that are important to Jordan like Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Russia and Indonesia.

"We sent a delegation on a special mission to both Yemen and Libya to do market surveys and to gather all the required information for Jordanian traders," Mr. Shaalan said.

2) Holding seminars and case studies where JTA members would meet to discuss all difficulties and try to come up with the appropriate solutions on the light of the available information.

3) The direct interaction with traders on the above mentioned markets via exchanging visits by economic delegations, holding commercial exhibitions and signing deals with the private sector in those countries.

Mr. Shaalan said that JTA would set up a permanent office in any foreign market if economic relations developed to a certain level requiring closer and in-depth presence.

He also referred to a number of joint-ventures made with the private sector in Austria to build electric and pharmaceutical industries in Jordan. He, however, said that with Russia business was mainly concentrated on consumer products.

In answering a question about local difficulties faced by exporters, he stressed that JTA works as a lobbying group towards the creation of an economic cycle which requires an in-depth vision of the local and outside economies.

Mr. Shaalan reviewed a num-

ber of difficulties and emphasised that rules and regulations on trade and investment should be modernised to refresh the national economic performance especially after the Gulf crisis.

He also mentioned the custom fees and taxes which hinder industrial development.

"The story of raw material being free of taxes has never been true as most of raw materials imported for industry pay custom fees and the ones which are totally free pay about 5.2 per cent in taxes," Mr. Shaalan pointed out.

This, he said, represents a major headache for all traders and industrialists since an item crosses the border twice in raw material form when imported and as a finished product when exported.

"It is the customs way of dealing that causes irritation and discomfort among industrialists as the customs department appoints permanent employees at factories and promote those employees for giving headline to owners of factories through their bureaucratic procedures," the JTA secretary general said.

Mr. Shaalan described the process as "uncivilised" and wondered how industries can develop with all these complications.

The JTA official questioned the reasoning behind increasing government representatives at the board of Jordan Export Developing and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCCC), and decreasing the number of private sector representatives on the board of directors in violation of the declared intention to enhance the role of the private sector.

He called for more effective role for the private sector to provide JEDCCC with enough support in the current period of economic challenges.



Fawaz Al Shaalan

Concerning bilateral economic agreements, Mr. Shaalan highlighted the importance of joint-economic relations between Jordan and the outside world, noting that when signing equitable contracts or deals, the opportunity broadens to Jordanian industrialists to export their products through the advantages provided for in the protocols.

Mr. Shaalan told the Jordan Times that the European Community (EC) classified Jordan among the most favourable nations to trade with and that Jordanian industrialists should benefit from the many facilities given by the EC.

He urged the private sector to start studying the European market before Europe becomes a united bloc endangering the Jordanian industry. He noted in this regard that a study is currently being made on the German market by the JTA.

Mr. Shaalan emphasised that the private sector should exert strenuous efforts to open new markets and to lend all possible assistance to the government drive to boost exports.

## Los Angeles riots deal blow to a market in early recovery

LOS ANGELES (R) — In the riot-scarred neighbourhoods of Los Angeles, nervous buyers are abandoning or delaying property purchases, dealing a blow to a market that is just beginning to emerge from recession.

Buyers mostly blame their change in plans on fear brought on by the violence that left 10,000 buildings torched and up to \$3 billion in damages.

"This is a disaster for downtown, L.A.," said Chuck Lamb, president of the California Association of Realtors (real estate brokers), referring to the commercial real-estate market, already suffering from a huge overhang of unwanted office space.

Property agree that the arson and looting that last week ravaged the second-largest city in the United States will lead to a drop in house sales. But while the impact will last longer in the affected areas, they see the decline in house sales as a temporary setback.

"In fact, I'm amazed at how quickly things have started getting back to normal," Mr. Lamb said.

The property market in Los Angeles was as hard hit by the recession as it was in other parts of the country, but this year it has started to rebound, aided by sharply lower interest rates and more attractive home prices.

In the first quarter, sales of existing houses jumped 11.7 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1991 and were up 10.6 per cent from a year ago, according to the California Association of Realtors.

Liz Bernard-Anderson, manager of an estate agent's office in Hollywood, said one potential buyer of a parcel of land backed

away from a deal after his property in the riot-torn south central area had been destroyed.

Another first-time house buyer cancelled his contract following the riots, she said, adding that "these instances are really more isolated."

But some buyers see opportunities.

One banker said a borrower in a looted area was anxious to obtain his loan so he could proceed with adding a car park to his business property.

Some real estate agents believe that other sectors of the city are likely to benefit from the problems in the troubled areas.

Meanwhile, as Los Angeles tries to return to business as usual, the rioting is likely to deter the foreign investment that has been a major stimulus to the region's economy.

The business community and economists agree that last week's riots will dissuade many foreigners from investing further in the second-largest U.S. city.

"It will be hard for foreigners to understand that calm has returned and we will need a serious effort by all involved to overcome what was seen by millions around the world," said Richard Drobnicki, director of the University of Southern California's international business education and research centre.

"Foreign investment has been very important, especially in real estate... but it has been sliding and this certainly won't increase it," he added.

"What you will see is a slowdown in foreign investment until they see how we address our problems," said Jack Kyser of the Economic Development Corp in Los Angeles.

Mr. Kyser said domestic investors will also sit back and assess whether they want to pump money into an area already besieged by problems of drugs, gang warfare and earthquakes.

"If a business was looted and the owners want to return, they could do so in about a month," Mr. Kyser said. "But if the property was destroyed by fire then it could be years, if the investor even decides to return."

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department estimates property damage at \$717 million. Others say that figure is far too conservative and one non-government source placed the damage at more than \$1 billion.

"By the time they sift through it all, damage will exceed \$1 billion, I guarantee it," said Geoff Thomas, an insurance law partner in the firm of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky Walker.

Los Angeles was already struggling against recession and business flight. Other cities in the U.S. west may benefit — Seattle, Denver, Phoenix, San Diego and San Francisco all have campaigns aimed at luring foreign business away from Los Angeles.

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### JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD

### INVITATION TO TENDER No. 25F/92

JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 25F/92 (for the supply of additional train of demineralised water with instantaneous flow rate of 30M3/H).

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Thursday 4.6.1992.

Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD (50) for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submission tender is 12:00 hours local time Saturday 20th June 1992.

Thabet Taher  
General Manager

### Financial - Jordan Times

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 7/5/1992	New York Close Date 8/5/1992
Sterling Pound	1.7945	1.7905
Deutsche Mark	1.6374	1.6440
Swiss Franc	1.5137	1.5253
French Franc	5.5140	5.5253
Japanese Yen	132.75	133.37
European Currency Unit	1.2593	1.2495

Unit for \$100  
\* European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	3.81	3.81	4.00	4.30
Sterling Pound	10.06	10.06	10.06	10.00
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.56
Swiss Franc	8.75	8.62	8.36	8.25
French Franc	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.75
Japanese Yen	4.60	4.68	4.56	4.56
European Currency Unit	10.00	9.93	9.93	9.87

Interbank bid rates for minimums exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Prices for Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	335.30	6.65	Silver	4.10	.090

\* 21 Karat

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6850	0.6870
Sterling Pound	1.2259	1.2381
Deutsche Mark	0.4164	0.4185
Swiss Franc	0.4487	0.4509
French Franc	0.1237	0.1263
Japanese Yen	0.5127	0.5153
Dutch Guilder	0.3699	0.3717
Swedish Krona	0.1463	0.1469
Italian Lira	0.0553	0.0556
Belgian Franc	0.02022	0.02032

\* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7900	1.8000
Lebanese Lira	0.0900	0.0950
Saudi Riyal	0.1823	0.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1858	0.1868
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7530	1.7630
UAE Dirham	0.1858	0.1868
Greek Drachma	0.3549	0.3749
Cypriot Pound	1.4730	1.4830

\* Per 100

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	29/4/1992 Close	6/5/1992 Close
All-Share	147.91	144.23
Banking Sector	108.14	107.08
Insurance Sector	149.15	148.32
Industry Sector	204.38	196.31
Services Sector	187.30	182.30

December 31, 1991 = 100

Cinema Tel: 677420  
**CONCORD**  
**CRYSTAL HEART**  
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144  
**PHILADELPHIA**  
**Back To The Future II**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Tel: 675571  
**Nabil Al Mashini Theatre**  
**Wait For The Next Attraction**

Cinema Tel: 625155  
**RAINBOW**  
**WELCOME TO EIGHTEEN**  
Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

## Credit card giant plans to cut costs by up to \$1 billion

NEW YORK (AP) — American Express Co. plans to cut operating costs at its main card and travel division by up to \$1 billion over three years as it tries to rebound from recent difficulties.

The unit has been battered by the recession and bad publicity over high fees charged to businesses that accept the company's flagship green, gold and platinum cards.

American Express Chairman James Robinson told shareholders the company would cut \$500 million to \$1 billion in expenses at its travel related services unit

from credit provisions, marketing and interest costs, and operations.

Adding to the company's troubles was the release of a book describing an alleged smear campaign undertaken by some American Express executives against a rival international banker.

The book, by Wall Street Journal reporter Bryan Burroughs, does not directly link Mr. Robinson to attempts to discredit Edmond Safra, who ran a bank acquired by American Express in 1983 but who resigned after disagreements the following year.



# Armenian forces take last Azeri stronghold in Karabakh

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Armenians seized the last major Azerbaijani stronghold in Nagorno-Karabakh, an important victory in their four-year conflict over the disputed territory, officials and news media said Saturday.

Seizure of the town of Shusha, from which Azerbaijan has shelled Armenian positions, will solidify Armenia's gains against Azerbaijan in recent weeks.

The advance came despite Friday's announcement that leaders of the two nations had signed an Iranian-brokered truce.

Casualties were heavy in the overnight campaign against Shusha, but no exact figures were available, said Azerbaijani government spokesman Ramin Agayev.

"Shusha is in a complete blockade and communications with the city are broken," Mr. Agayev told the Associated Press. He said the attack by well-armed forces came from three directions and was finished by morning.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in the conflict. The mostly Armenian territory lies entirely within Azerbaijan.

Armenian fighters used heavy artillery, rocket launchers and military helicopters in the attack on Shusha and the Azerbaijani town of Agdam, another artillery base.

Mr. Agayev also said Armenian forces opened an overland corridor from northern Armenia into Nagorno-Karabakh, which has been under a virtual blockade. The territory has depended on airlifts of supplies for most of the war, and several helicopters have been shot down.

Also Saturday, officials reported street fighting in Shusha. Armenian spokesman Gagan Bagdasaryan said Azerbaijani fighters back with Sukhoi-25 fighter bombers and Mi-24 attack helicopters but failed to stop Armenian advance.

He said Azerbaijani troops were being allowed to leave the city.

Azerbaijani forces launched their own attacks Friday against nearby Armenian villages, and had shelled the region's capital of Stepanakert. Three people were killed and seven wounded when Azerbaijanis attacked two Armenian villages, the ITAR-TASS News Agency reported.

The agreement, reported by the official Iranian media, climaxed two days of talks supervised by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The accord called for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the economic siege imposed on the enclave.

Several earlier truces have been short-lived.

Farkhad Mekhtiyev, adviser to the press secretary of the president of Azerbaijan, said Armenian troops had taken the town of Shusha after a night of fighting.

"The town of Shusha changed hands several times during the night, but finally, in the face of overwhelming force, Azeris had to relinquish control," he told Reuters by telephone from the Azeri capital Baku.

The Pro Armenia news agency said 10 Armenian fighters had been killed. Snark News Agency, also based in Armenia, said Shusha fell to Armenian self-defence forces at 3 a.m.

Armenian and Azeri news agencies said the Armenian troops had followed their assault on Shusha with a two-sided attack on the Azeri town of Lachin, located in a narrow corridor of Azerbaijan separating Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia.

Azeri Radio was broadcasting solemn music, the agency added. The Nagorno-Karabakh defence council had said Shusha was

being used as the base for repeated rocket attacks on Stepanakert, capital of the mountainous district.

Azeri President Yagub Mamedov, in a television on his return to Baku, initially absolved his Armenian counterpart Levon Ter-Petrossyan of bad faith.

"We felt there (in Tehran) that the leadership of Armenia, and personally Ter-Petrossyan, are interested in a political solution to the problem," he said. "During the talks he admitted that there are forces that he does not control."

But Mr. Mekhtiyev said the latest battle for Shusha was undermining the peace initiative.

"We consider it to be no coincidence that the takeover of Shusha was carried out at the same time as peace agreements were being signed," he said.

Snark said Levon Melik-Shakhnazarov, the head of Nagorno-Karabakh's parliament, said Russia would be held responsible for any attack using planes of the former Soviet army.

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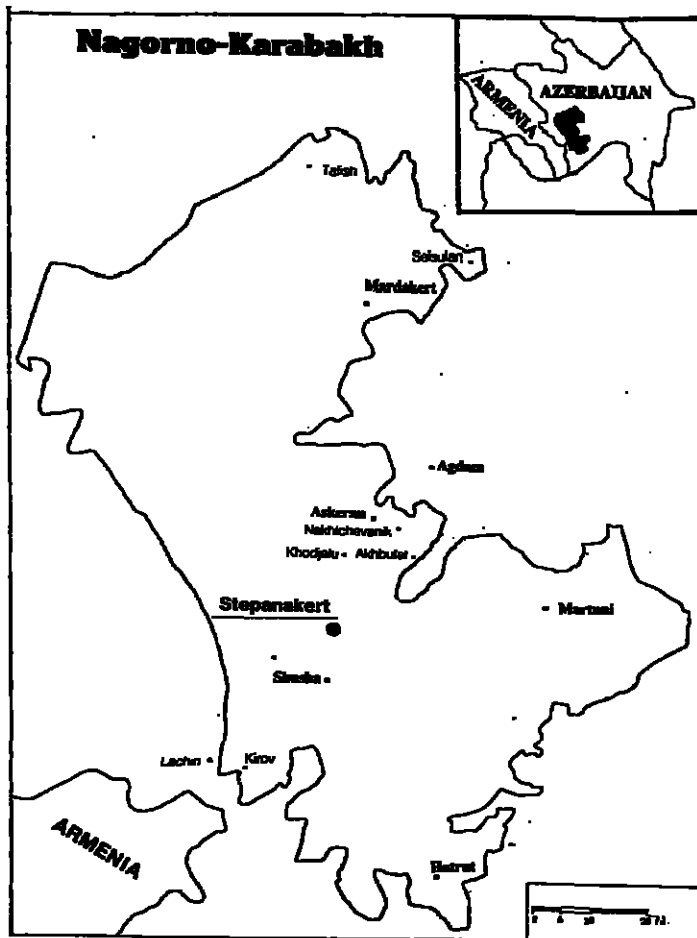
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## Military shake-up in Serbia, fighting continues in Bosnia

BELGRADE (AP) — Fighting raged in strife-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina Saturday, a day after the Yugoslav leadership purged 40 Communist officers in a major shakeup of the Serb-led federal army.

The purge — apparently orchestrated by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic — came as the federal army said it would relinquish the command of its forces in Bosnia and pull some of its soldiers from the state by May 19.

That would leave up to 80,000 troops in Bosnia who could continue to fight alongside ethnic Serbs.

At least 500 people have been killed since Muslims and ethnic Croats in Bosnia declared independence in February and clashed with minority Serbs and the federal army opposed to secession from the Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

Fighting overnight in Bosnia affected the capital Sarajevo. Bosanski Brod, Doboj and Brcko in the north, Bosanska Krupa in the west, and Mostar in the southwest, reports said.

Signs increased of a split in the army over its performance in Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia — which have fought secessionist wars against the Serb-led army.

All of the ousted generals and admirals were Communist-trained old-guard commanding officers.

Some junior army officers say the federal military should have been tougher against the former Yugoslav republics.

Milosevic apparently wants to distance Belgrade from Serbian offensives in Bosnia and bombardments of civilian targets in Slovenia and Croatia to avoid sanctions from the west, which has condemned the army.

But the new Yugoslav acting defence minister, Gen. Zvezda Panic, is believed to pursue the same hardline policies as his predecessor, Gen. Blagoje Adzic.

Others ousted besides Adzic were Serbian Defence Minister Gen. Marko Negovanovic, the army's Bosnian Commander Gen. Milutin Kukanjac and Gen. Andrija Raseta, who commanded forces in Zagreb during the fighting in Croatia last year, the Tanjug News Agency said.

No replacement were immediately announced.

In Sarajevo, Serb-Muslim street battles and artillery fire resumed overnight in its suburbs, but ceased by 6 a.m. (0400 GMT).

In Sarajevo, Serb-Muslim street battles and artillery fire resumed overnight in its suburbs, but ceased by 6 a.m. (0400 GMT).

At least two people were killed, Sarajevo Radio said.

Grenades continued to fall on the city on Saturday, and there was sniper fire from the Marshal Tito Federal Army barracks.

More than 120 people have been killed in Sarajevo in the past week.

At least 150 people were wounded in the past three days in Mostar, Croatian radio reported.

Mostar was once a popular tourist spot famed for its 16th-century bridge, old buildings and a spectacular mountain setting.

Belgrade TV said seven federal soldiers were killed in the clashes Friday.

Heavy fighting also flared in Brcko and Bosanski Brod on Bosnia's northern border with Croatia, media reported said.

In a separate development, photographers working for Reuters filmed the summary execution of two unarmed prisoners Thursday in Brcko, a small town devastated by fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina's bloody war.

NEW YORK (R) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has given hours of secretly-made tapes that were stored in a warehouse for more than a decade to congressional investigators probing whether Republicans delayed the freeing of U.S. hostages held in Iran in 1980, FBI sources said.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said the tapes included a conversation that appeared to be between then Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan and a man the sources said was Iranian.

The sources said the tapes were discovered during a three-week hunt that ended last month of an airport hanger in upstate New York that is used as a storage warehouse by the FBI. More than 80 FBI agents took part in the hunt.

They said that about 10 hours of tapes were discovered and turned to the joint Senate-House of Representatives Task Force probing the so-called "October Surprise," allegation that the Republicans convinced Iran not to free the hostages until after the presidential election.

The sources declined to say what the two men discussed on the tapes or who ordered the search for the tapes. The hearings start next month.

Mr. Reagan has denied that he made any effort to delay the release of the hostages during his successful campaign with vice presidential running mate George Bush against President Jimmy Carter in 1980.

Instead, the former president has said he made efforts to free the hostages although he has de-

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Earth Summit treaty nears completion

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Officials from 143 nations neared the end of two years hard negotiating, poised to approve a landmark treaty committing industrialised nations to fight global warming by curbing greenhouse-gas emissions. Delegates were set to work throughout the night on a compromise text of a climate-change convention to be signed by world leaders at next month's Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro. Last-ditch objections by Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing nations slowed debate on the text, but observers doubted anything would disrupt the treaty's likely approval.

### M15 to take over anti-IRA intelligence

LONDON (R) — Britain's counter-espionage agency M15 will take over from the police in gathering intelligence against Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas, the government said. "The purpose of this change is to enable the security service to use to the full the skills and expertise which they have developed over the years in their work on counter-terrorism." Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke told parliament. M15 Chief Stella Rimington, in a rare public statement, welcomed the new role for Britain's internal secret service saying it would work with police "to help them bring terrorists to justice." The shift follows a series of bombings by Irish nationalist guerrillas and an embarrassing admission by police, leaked to newspapers, that they had little intelligence on Irish Republican Army operations on the British mainland.

### Tajik opposition urges president to quit

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (R) — Tajikistan's opposition Saturday called on conservative President Rakhmon Nabiyev to resign and make way for a coalition government of pro-Muslim and Democratic forces. But provincial authorities in Mr. Nabiyev's native Leninabad region threatened to declare independence from this mountainous Central Asian country if their leader is ousted. "The culmination of our revolution should be the resignation of the president," Rakhim Musumunon, deputy head of the Democratic Party, told Reuters. Mr. Nabiyev, elected last November amid opposition accusations of widespread ballot-rigging, has been holed up in the heavily-guarded former headquarters of the KGB security police since his government collapsed Thursday. He has offered to work with the anti-Communist opposition in a coalition government and has made several concessions, including sacking the vice-president and other top officials.

### Mulroney regaining support

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, whose Conservatives sank to a low of 11 per cent earlier this year, has begun talking tough and it's paying off in opinion polls. Since March, Mr. Mulroney has charged the United States with acting like a "tin-pot dictator" over trade restrictions taken against Canada and accused European fishermen of "raping" Canada's Grand Banks fishing grounds. Last week he told French-speaking Quebecers they must stay in or get out of Canada, but cannot have it both ways. Aided by a brighter economic outlook and signs of progress in resolving the constitutional crisis threatening to split Canada apart, Mr. Mulroney has recouped lost ground. After sinking to a record low of 11 per cent support in opinion polls, the Conservatives have moved up to 20 per cent to tie with the New Democrats, but are still well behind the Liberals' 37 per cent, according to an Angus Reid poll released this week.

### Thai opposition leader ends fast

BANGKOK (R) — Opposition leader Chamlong Srimuang ended his death fast Saturday but urged thousands of protesters in central Bangkok to fight on against Thailand's unelected Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon. Mr. Chamlong later told a rally of about 6,000 people he was also resigning as leader of his Palang Dharma "Moral Force" Party in order to unify the opposition, which the military claims is splitting. "I vow to continue fighting until Suchinda resigns," said Mr. Chamlong, whose hunger strike since Monday had galvanised huge street protests demanding that Gen. Suchinda resign.

### Scots Nationalists demand referendum

EDINBURGH (R) — Nationalists said Friday that results in Britain's local council elections strengthened their case for a referendum on Scotland's link with England. Scottish National Party (SNP) leader Alex Salmond said the SNP won 25 per cent of the vote in Scotland in Thursday's ballot, more than the ruling Conservative Party. Mr. Salmond said the results put in question the right of Prime Minister John Major's national government to legislate for Scotland. "I don't claim the SNP has the right to rule Scotland on 25 per cent of the vote," he told reporters. "I do question the Conservative right to rule Scotland on 25 per cent of the vote."

### WHO gets 6 new members

GENEVA (R) — Six newly-independent states have joined the World Health Organisation (WHO), raising its membership to 176, a spokeswoman for the United Nations agency said. She said the new members were the former Yugoslav republic of Slovenia and the former Soviet republics of Armenia, Georgia, Kirghyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan.

### Indian liquor death toll hits 115

CUTTACK, India (R) — The number of deaths caused by poisonous liquor in India's eastern state of Orissa rose to 115 Saturday, police and hospital sources said. They said 125 people were fighting agonising battles for life at hospitals in Cuttack City, where hundreds of people have fallen ill since Wednesday after drinking the liquor. Among the dead were 10 women and two children. Unofficial sources put the death toll at over 150, saying at least 40 people who died at home had been cremated without informing police. Police said some liquor vendors were paying relatives to cremate the dead instead of telling the authorities. Police have so far arrested 13 people and closed down all drink shops. The Orissa government has banned the sale and consumption of "country" (cheap) liquor in the state.

## Congressional committee gets Reagan 'tapes'

NEW YORK (R) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has given hours of secretly-made tapes that were stored in a warehouse for more than a decade to congressional investigators probing whether Republicans delayed the freeing of U.S. hostages held in Iran in 1980, FBI sources said.

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Instead, the former president has said he made efforts to free the hostages although he has de-

clined to give specifics.

The sources did not know how the FBI came to make the tapes in 1980 but said they assumed the man speaking to Mr. Reagan was the object of an investigation.

"They declined to name the man but one source said, 'the voices were clearly theirs' referring to Mr. Reagan and the Iranian."

FBI New York spokesman Joseph Valiquette refused all comment. "We are not going to discuss any of this. We have absolutely no comment to make," he said.

Spokesmen for several of the 13 congressmen and two senators investigating the "October Surprise" had no comment on whether the tapes had been turned over.

## COLUMN

### Namibian wins Miss Universe pageant

BANGKOK (R) — Miss Namibia, 19-year-old model Michelle McLean, was crowned Miss Universe Saturday in a glittering pageant overshadowed by huge anti-government demonstrations on the streets of Bangkok. Miss Colombia, 21-year-old student Paola Turbay, was runner-up and in third place was Miss India, 20-year-old model Madhusini Sapra. Ms. McLean, a brunette, takes home cash and prizes worth over \$250,000. She was crowned by the outgoing Miss Universe, Lupita Jones of Mexico. Meeting the press afterwards, she immediately fended off questions on the political unrest in Thailand and on why a white woman was representing the mainly-black African nation of Namibia. "We've been very busy for the past few days and haven't had a chance to read the news," she said. "I don't know anything about the situation."

### 'Mummy-to-be doll' goes on sale

NEW YORK (AP) — Right after she gives birth, Judith has her figure again, with a belly flat as a board. There's no weariness on her face, her blood hairdo remains in place. And she can do it all over again right away. Judith is an 11½-inch (29-centimetre) doll with a belly that comes off to reveal a baby that pops out. Priced at \$19.95, the doll was selling briskly at Fao Schwarz, a New York toy store, where it went on the shelves. Her arrival caused a traffic jam of shoppers and passersby, including high school girls who giggled, "that's so neat," when they saw the doll. "I used to stick stuff up to pretend that," said Denise Kenner, 18, Diane Welsh, president of the New York City chapter of the National Organisation for Women, wasn't amused. "A doll that magically becomes pregnant and unpregnant is an irresponsible toy," she said. "We need to understand having a child is a very serious business. We have enough unwanted children in this world."

### Princess Anne dances with 'navy sweetheart'

LONDON (R) — Princess Anne has danced the night away with a handsome navy frigate commander just two weeks after getting a divorce. British tabloids reported. Newspapers splashed pictures of Princess Anne, 41, tripping a Scottish reel at the Royal Caledonian Ball with 37-year-old bachelor Commander Tim Larrance, her former equerry. "Anne gets her man," said the headline. Anne was "starry-eyed," the Sun reported. "So in love," gushed the Daily Mirror. According to one guest present at the charity ball, Commander Laurence whirled Princess Anne round the dance floor. "She was laughing almost non-stop. She was ecstatic." Newspapers said that, after the divorce of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips two weeks ago, Queen Elizabeth had given her blessing to a love which her only daughter has had to keep secret for six years. In 1986 intimate letters from Commander Laurence to Princess Anne were stolen from her briefcase. And the Sun said Buckingham Palace had consulted the office of George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury and spiritual head of the state Church of England, to discuss an autumn wedding announcement for Princess and "her navy sweetheart."

### Fertility doctor sentenced to 5 years in prison

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia (R) — A former fertility doctor, convicted of fraud and perjury for deceptively impregnating patients with his own sperm, was sentenced Friday to five years in prison and fined \$75,000. The doctor, Cecil Jacobson, was also ordered to pay \$39,000 in restitution to patients who had not received civil settlements in a series of private lawsuits. U.S. District Court Judge James Cacheris, in sentencing Dr. Jacobson, said, "I don't think he has shown acceptance of responsibility" for the psychological harm caused to women who he misled into believing they were pregnant. In addition, Cacheris sentenced Dr. Jacobson to three years' probation. Under federal sentencing guidelines, Dr. Jacobson will have to serve all five years of his sentence.